

By: Flynn, Alonzo, Paul, Hernandez,  
Stephenson

H.B. No. 2974

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 2974:

By: Alonzo

C.S.H.B. No. 2974

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a joint interim committee to undertake a study of health benefit plans administered by the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. CREATION OF JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE. (a) A joint interim committee is created to study and review the health benefit plans, including TRS-Care and TRS-ActiveCare, operated under Chapters 1575 and 1579, Insurance Code, and propose reforms to address issues described by Section 2 of this Act.

(b) The joint interim committee shall be composed of three senators appointed by the lieutenant governor and three members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

(c) The lieutenant governor and speaker of the house of representatives shall each designate a co-chair from among the joint interim committee members.

(d) The joint interim committee shall convene at the joint call of the co-chairs.

(e) The joint interim committee has all other powers and duties provided to a special or select committee by the rules of the senate and house of representatives, by Subchapter B, Chapter 301, Government Code, and by policies of the senate and house committees on administration.

SECTION 2. INTERIM STUDY REGARDING CERTAIN HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS. The joint interim committee created by Section 1 of this Act shall study the health benefit plans, including TRS-Care and TRS-ActiveCare, operated under Chapters 1575 and 1579, Insurance Code, to examine and assess the following issues:

- (1) the financial soundness of the plans;
- (2) the cost and affordability of plan coverage to persons eligible for coverage under the plans; and
- (3) the sufficiency of access to physicians and health care providers under the plans.

SECTION 3. COMMITTEE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. (a) Not later than January 15, 2017, the joint interim committee shall report the committee's findings and recommendations to the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the governor. The joint interim committee shall include in its recommendations specific statutory and regulatory changes that appear necessary from the results of the committee's study under Section 2 of this Act.

(b) Not later than the 60th day after the effective date of this Act, the lieutenant governor and speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint the members of the joint interim committee created under Section 1 of this Act in accordance with that section.

SECTION 4. ABOLITION OF COMMITTEE. The joint interim committee created by this Act is abolished and this Act expires January 20, 2017.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect

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1 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members  
2 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas  
3 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for  
4 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2015.