

By: Averitt

S.B. No. 1513

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

relating to an interim study regarding the operation of certain state health insurance programs.

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

SECTION 1. INTERIM COMMITTEE; STUDY. The joint interim committee on state health insurance programs is established to study state expenditures on health insurance and health benefit programs and to analyze the feasibility of establishing a separate state agency to administer the health benefit programs currently administered by the Employees Retirement System of Texas, the Teacher Retirement System of Texas, The University of Texas System, and The Texas A&M University System.

SECTION 2. COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE. (a) The joint interim committee shall be composed of five senators and five members of the house of representatives, as follows:

(1) the chair of the senate finance committee, the chair of the senate state affairs committee, and three senators appointed by the lieutenant governor; and

(2) the chair of the appropriations committee of the house of representatives, the chair of the insurance committee of the house of representatives, and three members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

(b) The lieutenant governor and speaker of the house of

1 representatives shall each designate a co-chair from among the
2 committee members.

3 SECTION 3. COMMITTEE MEETINGS. The joint interim committee
4 shall meet initially at the joint call of the co-chairs, and the
5 committee shall subsequently hold meetings and public hearings at
6 the call of the co-chairs.

7 SECTION 4. COMMITTEE POWERS AND DUTIES. The joint interim
8 committee has all powers and duties provided to special committees
9 by the senate and house of representatives rules of procedure, by
10 Subchapter B, Chapter 301, Government Code, and by policies of the
11 committees on administration.

12 SECTION 5. COMMITTEE FUNDING. (a) From the contingent
13 expense fund of the senate and the contingent expense fund of the
14 house of representatives equally, the members of the joint interim
15 committee shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in carrying out
16 the provisions of this Act in accordance with the senate and house
17 of representatives rules of procedure and the policies of the
18 committees on administration.

19 (b) Other necessary expenses of operation shall be paid from
20 the contingent expense fund of the senate and the contingent
21 expense fund of the house of representatives equally.

22 SECTION 6. REPORT. The joint interim committee shall make a
23 complete written report, including findings and recommendations
24 and drafts of recommended legislation, to the 80th Legislature when
25 it convenes in January, 2007.

26 SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September
27 1, 2005.