

By: Sanford

H.B. No. 2966

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an interim study regarding the identification of health and human services programs that can be privatized.

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

SECTION 1. INTERIM COMMITTEE; STUDY. (a) The joint interim committee on the privatization of health and human services programs is established to study and identify health and human services programs that can be provided through a contract with a private service provider. The committee shall report its findings and recommend:

(1) five health and human services programs each with an annual budget of \$5 million or more that can be provided through a contract with a private service provider; and

(2) five health and human services programs each with an annual budget of less than \$5 million that can be provided through a contract with a private service provider.

(b) The joint interim committee may establish appropriate criteria for the study to accomplish the study's purpose. The study must include an examination of:

(1) a health and human services program's actual annual cost of providing services under the program; and

(2) the estimated cost of providing the same services if transferred to a private service provider.

(c) The comptroller shall assist the joint interim

1 committee by performing an external audit of a health and human
2 services program at the committee's request. The comptroller shall
3 file a report of each audit with the joint interim committee.

4 (d) The joint interim committee shall be composed of six
5 senators appointed by the lieutenant governor and six members of
6 the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house
7 of representatives.

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

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

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

18 (h) Not later than January 1, 2017, the joint interim
19 committee shall report the committee's findings and
20 recommendations to the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the
21 house of representatives, the governor, the executive commissioner
22 of the Health and Human Services Commission, and each house and
23 senate standing committee with primary jurisdiction over health and
24 human services. The joint interim committee shall include in its
25 recommendations specific health and human services programs that
26 can be provided through a contract with a private service provider.

27 (i) From the contingent expense fund of the senate and the

1 contingent expense fund of the house of representatives equally,
2 the members of the joint interim committee shall be reimbursed for
3 expenses incurred in carrying out the provisions of this Act in
4 accordance with the senate and house of representatives rules of
5 procedure and the policies of the committees on administration.
6 Other necessary expenses of operation shall be paid from the
7 contingent expense fund of the senate and the contingent expense
8 fund of the house of representatives equally.

9 SECTION 2. ABOLITION OF COMMITTEE. The joint interim
10 committee on the privatization of health and human services
11 programs is abolished and this Act expires September 1, 2017.

12 SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect
13 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members
14 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas
15 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for
16 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2015.