

By: Flynn, Alonzo, Paul, Hernandez,
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H.B. No. 2974

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the creation of a joint interim committee to undertake a
3 study of health benefit plans administered by the Teacher
4 Retirement System of Texas.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6 (1) the financial soundness of the plans;

7 (2) the cost and affordability of plan coverage to
8 persons eligible for coverage under the plans; and

9 (3) the sufficiency of access to physicians and health
10 care providers under the plans.

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

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

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

27 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.