

By: Lozano, Hunter

H.B. No. 3453

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to participation in and rates for coverage provided under  
3 the uniform group coverage program for active employees.

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

5 SECTION 1. INTERIM COMMITTEE; STUDY. (a) A joint interim  
6 committee on TRS ActiveCare is established to study:

7 (1) the impact of allowing school districts and other  
8 participating entities in the uniform group coverage program for  
9 active employees under Chapter 1579, Insurance Code, to opt out of  
10 that program;

11 (2) the impact, should participating entities be  
12 authorized to opt out of the program, of allowing or prohibiting  
13 future participation by previous participating entities that have  
14 opted out; and

15 (3) the impact of establishing a regional rating  
16 method for determining premiums charged in different regions of the  
17 state for the benefits provided under a group coverage plan  
18 established under the program.

19 (b) The joint interim committee shall be composed of six  
20 senators appointed by the lieutenant governor and six members of  
21 the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house  
22 of representatives.

23 (c) The lieutenant governor and speaker of the house of  
24 representatives shall each designate a co-chair from among the

1 joint interim committee members.

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

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

9 (f) Not later than January 1, 2017, the joint interim  
10 committee shall report the committee's findings and  
11 recommendations to the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the  
12 house of representatives, the governor, the Teacher Retirement  
13 System of Texas, and each house and senate standing committee with  
14 primary jurisdiction over primary and secondary education or health  
15 benefit plan coverage.

16 (g) From the contingent expense fund of the senate and the  
17 contingent expense fund of the house of representatives equally,  
18 the members of the joint interim committee shall be reimbursed for  
19 expenses incurred in carrying out the provisions of this Act in  
20 accordance with the senate and house of representatives rules of  
21 procedure and the policies of the committees on administration.  
22 Other necessary expenses of operation shall be paid from the  
23 contingent expense fund of the senate and the contingent expense  
24 fund of the house of representatives equally.

25 SECTION 2. ABOLITION OF COMMITTEE. The joint interim  
26 committee on TRS ActiveCare created by this Act is abolished and  
27 this Act expires September 1, 2017.

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