

By: Burrows

H.B. No. 4002

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to an interim study regarding international price
3 discrimination in pharmaceuticals.

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

5 SECTION 1. INTERIM COMMITTEE; STUDY. (a) The joint interim
6 committee on pharmaceutical pricing is established to study and
7 review the impacts of international pharmaceutical price
8 discrimination on the people of Texas as well as on the state
9 government.

10 (b) The study must consider:

11 (1) the reasoning behind pharmaceutical companies
12 pricing on the international market;

13 (2) any changes in the cost of pharmaceuticals under
14 the Affordable Care Act;

15 (3) the amount to which the American public subsidizes
16 the international pharmaceutical market, research and development,
17 and other costs; and

18 (4) the impacts of price discrimination on:

19 (A) individual citizens of this state; and

20 (B) the budget of this state;

21 (c) The joint interim committee shall be composed of the
22 members of the international trade and intergovernmental affairs
23 committee of the house of representatives, and the
24 intergovernmental relations committee of the senate.

1 (d) The chairmen of each respective committee shall serve as
2 co-chairs for the joint interim committee.

3 (e) The joint interim committee shall convene at the call of
4 one of the co-chairs.

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

10 (g) Not later than January 6, 2017, the joint interim
11 committee shall report the committee's findings to the lieutenant
12 governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the
13 governor.

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

23 (i) The Texas Legislative Council shall provide legal and
24 policy research, bill drafting, and statistical analysis services
25 to the committee created under this section.

26 SECTION 2. ABOLITION OF COMMITTEE. The committee is
27 abolished and this Act expires January 12, 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.