

By: Burrows

H.B. No. 1994

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the creation of a joint interim committee to study
3 health care costs and the transparency of health care costs and
4 health benefits.

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, review, and report on
8 health care costs and the transparency of health care costs and
9 health benefits, as provided by Section 2 of this Act, and propose
10 reforms under that section to reduce health care costs and increase
11 transparency of health care costs and health benefits, including
12 health benefits or coverage provided under Chapters 1551, 1575,
13 1579, and 1601, Insurance Code.

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

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

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

23 (e) The joint interim committee has all other powers and
24 duties provided to a special or select committee by the rules of the

1 senate and house of representatives, by Subchapter B, Chapter 301,
2 Government Code, and by policies of the senate and house committees
3 on administration.

4 SECTION 2. INTERIM STUDY REGARDING CERTAIN HEALTH CARE
5 COSTS AND TRANSPARENCY OF HEALTH CARE COSTS AND HEALTH BENEFITS.

6 (a) The joint interim committee created by Section 1 of this Act
7 shall study data and other information, including aggregate
8 reimbursement rates submitted to the Texas Department of Insurance
9 under Subchapter H, Chapter 38, Insurance Code, to examine and
10 analyze health care costs and the transparency of health care costs
11 and health benefits, including health benefits or coverage provided
12 under Chapters 1551, 1575, 1579, and 1601, Insurance Code.

13 (b) The joint interim committee shall propose reforms based
14 on the study required under Subsection (a) of this section to reduce
15 health care costs and increase the transparency of health care
16 costs and health benefits.

17 (c) The joint interim committee shall prepare a report of
18 the findings and proposed reforms that maintains confidentiality in
19 accordance with Section 38.356, Insurance Code.

20 SECTION 3. COMMITTEE FINDINGS AND PROPOSED REFORMS. (a)

21 Not later than January 15, 2019, the joint interim committee
22 created under Section 1 of this Act shall submit to the lieutenant
23 governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the
24 governor the report prepared under Section 2 of this Act. The joint
25 interim committee shall include in its report recommendations of
26 specific statutory and regulatory changes that appear necessary
27 from the committee's study under Section 2 of this Act.

1 (b) Not later than the 60th day after the effective date of
2 this Act, the lieutenant governor and speaker of the house of
3 representatives shall appoint the members of the joint interim
4 committee in accordance with Section 1 of this Act.

5 SECTION 4. ABOLITION OF COMMITTEE. The joint interim
6 committee created under Section 1 of this Act is abolished and this
7 Act expires January 20, 2019.

8 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect
9 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members
10 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas
11 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for
12 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2017.