

By: Oliverson

H.B. No. 3560

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to a joint interim study regarding health benefit coverage  
3 for obesity under certain health benefit plans.

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

5 SECTION 1. JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE. (a) A joint interim  
6 committee is created to study health benefit coverage for the  
7 diagnosis and treatment of obesity provided by:

8 (1) group health benefit plans in the private market;  
9 and

10 (2) plans and programs provided through government  
11 entities.

12 (b) The committee shall be composed of:

13 (1) two senators appointed by the lieutenant governor;

14 (2) two representatives appointed by the speaker of  
15 the house of representatives; and

16 (3) one member appointed by the governor, who shall  
17 serve as the committee's presiding officer.

18 (c) The committee shall convene at the call of the presiding  
19 officer.

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

1           (e) From the contingent expense fund of the senate and the  
2 contingent expense fund of the house of representatives equally,  
3 the members of the committee are entitled to reimbursement for  
4 expenses incurred in carrying out the provisions of this section in  
5 accordance with the rules of the senate and house of  
6 representatives and the policies of the senate and house committees  
7 on administration.

8           (f) Not later than the 60th day after the effective date of  
9 this Act, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of  
10 representatives, and the governor shall appoint the members of the  
11 interim committee created under this section.

12           SECTION 2. STUDY. The committee created under Section 1 of  
13 this Act shall, with respect to coverage for the diagnosis and  
14 treatment of obesity provided by the plans and programs described  
15 by Section 1(a) of this Act:

16           (1) study:

17                   (A) health benefits that are currently provided  
18 by those plans and programs; and

19                   (B) exclusions from coverage under those plans  
20 and programs;

21           (2) identify the extent to which health benefit  
22 coverage provided is mandated or discretionary;

23           (3) identify diagnostic services and treatments for  
24 which coverage is not offered by those plans and programs;

25           (4) determine the justifications for offering,  
26 limiting, or excluding coverage and how decisions to offer, limit,  
27 or exclude coverage are made;

1           (5) calculate and compare the direct and indirect  
2 costs to an individual, the state, and the state economy associated  
3 with:

4                   (A) the provision of mandated coverage;

5                   (B) the provision of other various levels of  
6 coverage; and

7                   (C) the exclusion of coverage; and

8           (6) identify the barriers that limit new or additional  
9 coverage.

10           SECTION 3. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. Not later than  
11 January 15, 2019, the committee created under Section 1 of this Act  
12 shall report the committee's findings and recommendations to the  
13 lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,  
14 and the governor. The committee shall include in its  
15 recommendations specific statutory changes, including changes to  
16 Subtitle E, Title 8, Insurance Code, that may appear necessary or  
17 advisable from the committee's study under Section 2 of this Act.

18           SECTION 4. EXPIRATION. This Act expires September 1, 2019.

19           SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September  
20 1, 2017.