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By:  Farrar H.R. No. 1439

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The nation is facing a vast retirement savings deficit, and it is estimated that half of all households are on a path that leads to financial insecurity in retirement; this retirement security crisis will have a significant impact on state and local governments as well as on retirees and their families; and

WHEREAS, Although the preparedness of Texans to retire in a financially secure manner has not been studied, it is estimated that Social Security provides 90 percent of the retirement income of nearly a quarter of Texans over the age of 65 and that the average amount of a Social Security check in Texas is about $1,375 per month; and

WHEREAS, Many Texans can rely on an employer-sponsored retirement plan to supplement their Social Security income; however, more than half of Texas workers in the private sector work for a business that does not offer such a plan; this is despite evidence that offering a retirement plan makes a business more competitive and helps with employee turnover; and

WHEREAS, Employees who are given the option of enrolling in a payroll deduction retirement plan are 15 times more likely to save for retirement; unfortunately, many small businesses do not choose to offer a payroll deduction retirement plan because of concerns about costs, complexity, time burdens, and potential liability; and

WHEREAS, The State of Texas has a vested interest in removing obstacles that prevent Texans from saving for retirement, and a study of retirement security in Texas would help to identify such obstacles; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby request the speaker to provide for an interim house study on retirement security in Texas; specifically, the study should: (1) examine ways the State of Texas can reduce the regulatory and operational burden on small businesses that want to offer a payroll deduction retirement plan to employees; and (2) study the preparedness of Texans to retire in a financially secure manner; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the speaker assign the study to a select or standing committee at his discretion, exercising authority granted to the speaker by House Rule 1, Section 17, Interim Studies, and House Rule 4, Chapter F, Interim Study Committees.