86R20163 CLE-D

By:  Kolkhorst S.C.R. No. 57

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Texas Department of Insurance reports that while the group health insurance market in Texas remains relatively stable, the individual market for health insurance continues to experience issues with access and affordability; and

WHEREAS, According to the department's 2018 Biennial Report, eight carriers will offer individual major medical plans on the federal health exchange in Texas in 2019, compared to 19 carriers in 2016, and the cost of premiums for most of the plans will increase 70 to 200 percent compared to the cost in 2014, when Affordable Care Act plans first became available; and

WHEREAS, The Texas Department of Insurance further reports that Section 1332 of the Affordable Care Act encourages innovation by allowing states to request a waiver from certain provisions of the Act and that new federal guidance provides more flexibility to states in applying for such a waiver; and

WHEREAS, Eight states have received a 1332 innovation waiver to increase choice and competition in their individual health insurance markets while protecting people with preexisting conditions, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures; and

WHEREAS, The National Conference of State Legislatures describes an additional waiver of federal law that affects state health care coverage under Medicaid; Section 1115 of the Social Security Act encourages state experimental demonstrations in Medicaid; states have used 1115 demonstration waivers to test a wide range of policy approaches, including offering coverage to otherwise ineligible populations, providing services not typically covered by Medicaid, experimenting with cost sharing and other payment reforms, and implementing changes to the delivery system; and

WHEREAS, Innovation in state health care coverage does not always require a waiver; some options for achieving greater flexibility with current Medicaid funding can be implemented directly by states, subject to federal guidelines; and

WHEREAS, States have been given greater flexibility to foster innovation in state health care coverage, and a study would help to identify all of the options for improving access to quality health care in Texas; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby request the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house of representatives to create a joint interim committee on state health care coverage; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the committee explore options for improving access to quality health care in Texas, including options for achieving greater flexibility with current Medicaid funding and for using 1115 demonstration waivers and 1332 innovation waivers; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the committee be composed of four members of the senate appointed by the lieutenant governor, who shall designate one of the members as joint chair, and four members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house, who shall designate one of the members as joint chair; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the committee submit a full report, including findings and recommendations, to the 87th Texas Legislature before it convenes in January 2021; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the committee's proceedings and operations be governed by such general rules and policies for interim committees as the 86th Texas Legislature may adopt.