

By: Parker

H.B. No. 1239

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to a study by the Teacher Retirement System of Texas  
3 regarding the use of health reimbursement accounts in conjunction  
4 with certain Medicare plans to provide health benefit coverage for  
5 certain retired school employees.

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

7 SECTION 1. STUDY. (a) The Teacher Retirement System of  
8 Texas shall conduct a study to evaluate the use of health  
9 reimbursement accounts in conjunction with Medicare plans  
10 available through the individual marketplace as a means to provide  
11 health benefit coverage under Chapter 1575, Insurance Code, for  
12 Medicare-eligible retired school employees and their spouses.

13 (b) The evaluation must consider:

14 (1) the affordability and availability of Medicare  
15 plans available through the individual marketplace to  
16 Medicare-eligible retirees and their spouses in the 2018-2019  
17 biennium compared to health benefit plans available to those  
18 retirees and their spouses under Chapter 1575, Insurance Code;

19 (2) provider availability under Medicare plans  
20 available through the individual marketplace; and

21 (3) any other items the Teacher Retirement System of  
22 Texas determines are relevant to the system's long-term ability to  
23 provide health benefits to Medicare-eligible retirees and their  
24 spouses considering the demographic, geographic, and socioeconomic

1 characteristics of the Medicare-eligible retirees and spouses  
2 participating in the group program under Chapter 1575, Insurance  
3 Code.

4 SECTION 2. REPORT. Not later than January 1, 2020, the  
5 Teacher Retirement System of Texas shall submit to the governor,  
6 lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and  
7 Legislative Budget Board a written report of the study conducted  
8 under Section 1 of this Act. The report must include the findings  
9 and legislative recommendations of the Teacher Retirement System of  
10 Texas.

11 SECTION 3. EXPIRATION DATE. This Act expires January 1,  
12 2021.

13 SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect  
14 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members  
15 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas  
16 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for  
17 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2019.