

Suspending limitations on conference committee
jurisdiction, S.B. No. 1742 (Menéndez/J. Johnson of Dallas)

By: J. Johnson of Dallas

H.R. No. 2194

R E S O L U T I O N

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the State of
2 Texas, 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, That House Rule 13,
3 Section 9(a), be suspended in part as provided by House Rule 13,
4 Section 9(f), to enable the conference committee appointed to
5 resolve the differences on Senate Bill 1742 (physician and health
6 care provider directories, preauthorization, utilization review,
7 independent review, and peer review for certain health benefit
8 plans and workers' compensation coverage) to consider and take
9 action on the following matter:

10 House Rule 13, Section 9(a)(4), is suspended to permit the
11 conference committee to add text on a matter not included in either
12 the house or senate version of the bill by adding the following new
13 ARTICLE to the bill:

14 ARTICLE 4. JOINT INTERIM STUDY

15 SECTION 4.01. CREATION OF JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE. (a) A
16 joint interim committee is created to study, review, and report on
17 the use of prior authorization and utilization review processes by
18 private health benefit plan issuers in this state, as provided by
19 Section 4.02 of this article, and propose reforms under that
20 section related to the transparency of and improving patient
21 outcomes under the prior authorization and utilization review
22 processes used by private health benefit plan issuers in this
23 state.

24 (b) The joint interim committee shall be composed of four

1 senators appointed by the lieutenant governor and four members of
2 the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house
3 of representatives.

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

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

9 (e) The joint interim committee has all other powers and
10 duties provided to a special or select committee by the rules of the
11 senate and house of representatives, by Subchapter B, Chapter 301,
12 Government Code, and by policies of the senate and house committees
13 on administration.

14 SECTION 4.02. INTERIM STUDY REGARDING PRIOR AUTHORIZATION
15 AND UTILIZATION REVIEW PROCESSES. (a) The joint interim committee
16 created by Section 4.01 of this article shall study data and other
17 information available from the Texas Department of Insurance, the
18 office of public insurance counsel, or other sources the committee
19 determines relevant to examine and analyze the transparency of and
20 improving patient outcomes under the prior authorization and
21 utilization review processes used by private health benefit plan
22 issuers in this state.

23 (b) The joint interim committee shall propose reforms based
24 on the study required under Subsection (a) of this section to
25 improve the transparency of and patient outcomes under prior
26 authorization and utilization review processes in this state.

27 (c) The joint interim committee shall prepare a report of

1 the findings and proposed reforms.

2 SECTION 4.03. COMMITTEE FINDINGS AND PROPOSED REFORMS. (a)
3 Not later than December 1, 2020, the joint interim committee
4 created under Section 4.01 of this article shall submit to the
5 lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,
6 and the governor the report prepared under Section 4.02 of this
7 article. The joint interim committee shall include in its report
8 recommendations of specific statutory and regulatory changes that
9 appear necessary from the committee's study under Section 4.02 of
10 this article.

11 (b) Not later than the 60th day after the effective date of
12 this Act, the lieutenant governor and speaker of the house of
13 representatives shall appoint the members of the joint interim
14 committee in accordance with Section 4.01 of this article.

15 SECTION 4.04. ABOLITION OF COMMITTEE. The joint interim
16 committee created under Section 4.01 of this article is abolished
17 and this article expires December 15, 2020.

18 Explanation: The addition is necessary to provide for the
19 interim study of the use of prior authorization and utilization
20 review processes by health benefit plan issuers in this state and
21 the proposal of reforms to improve the transparency of and patient
22 outcomes under those processes.