

By: Hughes

S.B. No. 1654

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to studies concerning public school employee and retiree  
3 health coverage.

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

5 SECTION 1. SCHOOL EMPLOYEE AND RETIRED EMPLOYEE HEALTH  
6 COVERAGE STUDIES. (a) Each regional education service center  
7 established under Chapter 8, Education Code, shall study the health  
8 coverage provided to:

9 (1) the employees of school districts and  
10 open-enrollment charter schools located in the region served by the  
11 regional education service center; and

12 (2) the retired employees of school districts and  
13 open-enrollment charter schools located in the region served by the  
14 regional education service center.

15 (b) Each study must:

16 (1) address whether, in lieu of the health coverage  
17 provided by the Teacher Retirement System of Texas under Chapters  
18 1575 and 1579, Insurance Code, as applicable, it would be feasible  
19 and advisable to provide health coverage in another manner;

20 (2) consider the feasibility and advisability of a  
21 variety of options for providing alternative health coverage,  
22 including coverage offered:

23 (A) by the regional education service center for  
24 all school districts and open-enrollment charter schools located in

1 the region;

2 (B) jointly by groups of school districts and  
3 open-enrollment charter schools located in the region for each  
4 district and school participating in a group;

5 (C) by individual school districts and  
6 open-enrollment charter schools in the region for the districts'  
7 and schools' employees or retired employees, as applicable; and

8 (D) in a combination of the options described by  
9 Paragraphs (A)-(C) of this subdivision;

10 (3) address whether alternative health coverage could  
11 be provided at a cost savings to school districts and  
12 open-enrollment charter schools, employees or retired employees,  
13 as applicable, and the state;

14 (4) separately address issues relating to alternative  
15 health coverage for districts' and schools' employees or retired  
16 employees; and

17 (5) identify possible barriers to implementation of an  
18 alternative health coverage program.

19 (c) The Teacher Retirement System of Texas shall study the  
20 transfer of health coverage from the group programs under Chapters  
21 [1575](#) and [1579](#), Insurance Code, as applicable, to alternative health  
22 coverage as described by Subsection (b) of this section. In  
23 conducting the study, the retirement system shall address the same  
24 matters as are addressed by each regional education service center.

25 SECTION 2. REPORTS. Not later than January 31, 2020, each  
26 regional education service center and the Teacher Retirement System  
27 of Texas shall submit a report of the results of the studies

1 conducted under this Act, together with any recommendations  
2 resulting from the studies, to the governor, the lieutenant  
3 governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the  
4 standing committees of the house and senate with jurisdiction over  
5 insurance and education.

6 SECTION 3. EXPIRATION. This Act expires September 1, 2021.

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