

By: Kolkhorst

S.C.R. No. 57

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

5 WHEREAS, According to the department's 2018 Biennial Report,
6 eight carriers will offer individual major medical plans on the
7 federal health exchange in Texas in 2019, compared to 19 carriers in
8 2016, and the cost of premiums for most of the plans will increase
9 70 to 200 percent compared to the cost in 2014, when Affordable Care
10 Act plans first became available; and

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

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

21 WHEREAS, The National Conference of State Legislatures
22 describes an additional waiver of federal law that affects state
23 health care coverage under Medicaid; Section 1115 of the Social
24 Security Act encourages state experimental demonstrations in

1 Medicaid; states have used 1115 demonstration waivers to test a
2 wide range of policy approaches, including offering coverage to
3 otherwise ineligible populations, providing services not typically
4 covered by Medicaid, experimenting with cost sharing and other
5 payment reforms, and implementing changes to the delivery system;
6 and

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

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

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

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

24 RESOLVED, That the committee be composed of four members of
25 the senate appointed by the lieutenant governor, who shall
26 designate one of the members as joint chair, and four members of the
27 house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house, who

1 shall designate one of the members as joint chair; and, be it
2 further

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

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