

By: Bucy

H.B. No. 225

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to establishing a joint select committee to study the
3 feasibility and sustainability of providing a cost-of-living
4 adjustment applicable to certain benefits paid by the Teacher
5 Retirement System of Texas.

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

7 SECTION 1. DEFINITION. In this Act, "committee" means the
8 joint select committee established under Section 2 of this Act.

9 SECTION 2. JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE. (a) A joint select
10 committee is established for the purposes of this Act and is
11 composed of the following members:

12 (1) two members of the senate appointed by the
13 lieutenant governor;

14 (2) two members of the house of representatives
15 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

16 (3) one member of the public who is appointed by the
17 lieutenant governor from lists of names submitted by stakeholder
18 groups; and

19 (4) one member of the public who is appointed by the
20 speaker of the house of representatives from lists of names
21 submitted by stakeholder groups.

22 (b) The lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house of
23 representatives shall make the appointments required under
24 Subsection (a) of this section as soon as possible after the

1 effective date of this Act, but not later than November 1, 2021.

2 (c) If a vacancy occurs, the appropriate appointing officer
3 shall appoint a person to serve for the remainder of the unexpired
4 term in the same manner as the original appointment.

5 SECTION 3. PRESIDING OFFICER; MEETINGS. (a) The
6 lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house of representatives
7 shall jointly select the presiding officer of the committee.

8 (b) The committee shall convene at the call of the presiding
9 officer.

10 SECTION 4. COOPERATION OF STATE AGENCY, DEPARTMENT, OR
11 OFFICE. If needed to perform the duties of the committee, the
12 committee may request the assistance of a state agency, department,
13 or office. The state agency, department, or office shall provide
14 the committee with the requested assistance.

15 SECTION 5. EXPENSES. (a) Each member of the committee is
16 entitled to reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses
17 incurred in performing committee duties.

18 (b) Each legislative member is entitled to reimbursement
19 from the appropriate fund of the member's respective house.

20 (c) Each public member is entitled to reimbursement from
21 funds appropriated to the committee.

22 SECTION 6. COMMITTEE POWERS AND DUTIES; STUDY. (a) The
23 committee shall study the feasibility and sustainability of
24 providing a cost-of-living adjustment payable to annuitants
25 receiving a retirement benefit annuity under the Teacher Retirement
26 System of Texas. The study must seek to identify and recommend a
27 financial structure capable of providing the cost-of-living

1 adjustment.

2 (b) The committee has all other powers and duties provided
3 to a special or select committee by the rules of the senate and
4 house of representatives, by Subchapter B, Chapter 301, Government
5 Code, and by policies of the senate and house committees on
6 administration.

7 SECTION 7. REPORT. Not later than September 1, 2022, the
8 committee shall submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor,
9 and the speaker of the house of representatives a report of the
10 committee's findings and recommendations under this Act.

11 SECTION 8. ABOLITION OF COMMITTEE; EXPIRATION. The
12 committee is abolished and this Act expires September 15, 2022.

13 SECTION 9. 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 on the 91st day after the
18 last day of the legislative session.