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| BILL ANALYSIS |

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| H.B. 4307 |
| By: Lucio III |
| Pensions, Investments & Financial Services |
| Committee Report (Unamended) |

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| **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**  In recent years, the state has implemented a compassionate use program under which Texans may be eligible to legally use low-THC cannabis to treat qualifying medical conditions. However, many health insurance plans, including those for public employees, do not cover this treatment. Without coverage, the cost of low-THC cannabis can reach upwards of $200 a month on average. H.B. 4307 seeks to ensure that more Texans are able to afford to exercise their right to use low-THC cannabis in the course of treatment of their condition, if eligible, by requiring certain insurance plans for public employees to cover this treatment. |
| **CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPACT**  It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly create a criminal offense, increase the punishment for an existing criminal offense or category of offenses, or change the eligibility of a person for community supervision, parole, or mandatory supervision. |
| **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**  It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution. |
| **ANALYSIS**  H.B. 4307 amends the Insurance Code to require the following insurance plans to provide coverage for low-THC cannabis prescribed under the state's compassionate use program:   * a health benefit plan offered under the Texas Employees Group Benefits Act; * a health benefit plan offered under TRS-Care, other than a Medicare Advantage plan or a Medicare prescription drug plan; and * a health coverage plan provided under TRS-ActiveCare.   This requirement applies only to a plan year that commences on or after January 1, 2022. |
| **EFFECTIVE DATE**  September 1, 2021. |