

1-1 By: Parker, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Creighton) H.B. No. 1461  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 19, 2021;  
 1-3 May 10, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on  
 1-4 Education; May 19, 2021, reported favorably by the following vote:  
 1-5 Yeas 11, Nays 0; May 19, 2021, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7 Taylor	X			
1-8 Lucio	X			
1-9 Bettencourt	X			
1-10 Hall	X			
1-11 Hughes	X			
1-12 Menéndez	X			
1-13 Paxton	X			
1-14 Perry	X			
1-15 Powell	X			
1-16 Schwertner	X			
1-17 West	X			

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to a study by the Teacher Retirement System of Texas  
 1-22 regarding the use of health reimbursement accounts in conjunction  
 1-23 with Medicare plans available through the individual marketplace to  
 1-24 provide health and pharmacy benefit coverage for certain retired  
 1-25 school employees.

1-26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-27 SECTION 1. STUDY. (a) The Teacher Retirement System of  
 1-28 Texas shall conduct a study to evaluate the use of health  
 1-29 reimbursement accounts in conjunction with Medicare plans  
 1-30 available through the individual marketplace as a means to provide  
 1-31 health and pharmacy benefit coverage under Chapter 1575, Insurance  
 1-32 Code, for Medicare-eligible retired school employees and their  
 1-33 spouses.

1-34 (b) The evaluation must consider:

1-35 (1) using claims experience and premium data from the  
 1-36 most recent two years, the affordability and availability of  
 1-37 Medicare plans available through the individual marketplace to  
 1-38 Medicare-eligible retirees and their spouses compared to health  
 1-39 benefit plans available to those retirees and their spouses under  
 1-40 Chapter 1575, Insurance Code;

1-41 (2) provider availability under Medicare plans  
 1-42 available through the individual marketplace; and

1-43 (3) any other items the Teacher Retirement System of  
 1-44 Texas determines are relevant to the system's long-term ability to  
 1-45 provide health and pharmacy benefits to Medicare-eligible retirees  
 1-46 and their spouses considering the demographic, geographic, and  
 1-47 socioeconomic characteristics of the Medicare-eligible retirees  
 1-48 and spouses participating in the group program under Chapter 1575,  
 1-49 Insurance Code.

1-50 (c) In conducting the study under this section, the Teacher  
 1-51 Retirement System of Texas:

1-52 (1) may contract or collaborate with entities having  
 1-53 industry-leading expertise and experience in the individual  
 1-54 marketplace; and

1-55 (2) shall invite comment and input from interested  
 1-56 stakeholders, including active and retired school employees.

1-57 SECTION 2. REPORT. Not later than December 1, 2021, the  
 1-58 Teacher Retirement System of Texas shall submit to the governor,  
 1-59 lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and  
 1-60 Legislative Budget Board a written report of the study conducted  
 1-61 under Section 1 of this Act. The report must include the findings

2-1 and legislative recommendations of the Teacher Retirement System of  
2-2 Texas.

2-3 SECTION 3. EXPIRATION DATE. This Act expires January 1,  
2-4 2023.

2-5 SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect  
2-6 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members  
2-7 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas  
2-8 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for  
2-9 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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