

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

S.C.R. 56  
By: Barrientos  
Education  
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As Filed

### **DIGEST**

Approximately forty percent of all students in Texas leave high school before completing the 12th grade. The dropout problem is costing the state \$319 billion in lost income to individuals, in lost tax revenues, and in increased job training, welfare, unemployment, and criminal justice costs. The enormity of the dropout problem has ominous implications for the future of Texas, considering that 67 percent of the inmates in Texas prisons are dropouts and that the poverty rate among high school dropouts is estimated at 31 percent, 10 times the poverty rate of college graduates.

### **PURPOSE**

S.C.R. 56 proposes the following resolutions:

Provides that the 77th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby establishes a special interim committee to study the problem of high school dropouts in Texas. Provides that the interim study committee be named the Joint Special Committee on High School Dropouts. Sets forth the composition of the committee. Requires the committee to meet initially at the joint call of the cochairs and to subsequently hold meetings and public hearings at the call of the cochairs. Provides that the committee shall have the power to issue process as provided by the senate and house of representatives rules of procedure and by Section 301.024, Government Code. Provides that the committee shall have all other powers and duties provided to special committees by the senate and house of representatives rules of procedure, by Chapter 301B, Government Code, and by policies of the committees on administration. Provides that, from the contingent expense fund of the senate and the contingent expense fund of the house of representatives equally, the members of the committee be reimbursed for expenses incurred in carrying out the provisions of this resolution in accordance with the senate and house of representatives rules of procedure and the policies of the committees on administration and that other necessary expenses of operation be paid from the contingent expense fund of the senate and the contingent expense fund of the house of representatives equally. Provides that the interim study committee make a complete report, including findings and recommendations and drafts of any legislation considered necessary, to the 78th Legislature when it convenes in January 2003; five copies of the completed report shall be filed in the Legislative Reference Library; five copies shall be filed with the Texas Legislative Council; two copies shall be filed with the secretary of the senate; and two copies shall be filed with the speaker of the house of representatives; following official distribution of the committee report, all remaining copies shall be deposited with the legislative reference librarian.