

By: Bivins, West

S.B. No. 1128

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

relating to the administration of the Joint Admission Medical Program.

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

SECTION 1. Subdivision (5), Section 51.821, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(5) "Participating student" means an eligible undergraduate student who is admitted to the program and who maintains eligibility for continued participation in the program. The term does not include a program alternate who participates in mentoring activities and receives other related counseling services under the program.

SECTION 2. Subsections (a) and (d), Section 51.824, Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) The council shall:

(1) recruit eligible undergraduate students for admission to the program;

(2) establish an application process for admitting eligible undergraduate students to the program;

(3) evaluate applications for admission to the program according to the procedures for selecting participating students under [selection requirements of] Subsection (b) and for selecting program alternates under Section 51.8245;

(4) monitor the implementation of the program;

1           (5) assist in developing services to support and  
2 encourage the pursuit of a medical education by participating  
3 students, program alternates, and, as applicable, nontraditional  
4 students described by Section 51.832;

5           (6) establish a process for participating students to:

6                   (A) be matched to an internship program as  
7 described by Subsection (c);

8                   (B) be matched to any required undergraduate  
9 mentoring program as described by Subsection (d);

10                  (C) apply for admission to participating medical  
11 schools;

12                  (D) be matched to a participating medical school  
13 as described by Subsection (e); and

14                   (E) enroll in that school;

15           (7) award to participating students undergraduate  
16 scholarships and summer stipends, including a summer stipend for a  
17 student who is required to participate in an internship program in  
18 the summer immediately following the student's senior year;

19           (8) award graduate scholarships to participating  
20 students and, as applicable, nontraditional students described by  
21 Section 51.832;

22           (9) enter into an agreement with each student admitted  
23 to the program, each program alternate, each participating medical  
24 school, and each general academic teaching institution or private  
25 or independent institution of higher education as required by this  
26 subchapter; and

27           (10) take any other action necessary to implement the

1 program.

2 (d) The council shall match each participating student and  
3 each program alternate with any appropriate undergraduate  
4 mentoring program required of the student or alternate by the  
5 council.

6 SECTION 3. Subchapter V, Chapter 51, Education Code, as  
7 added by Chapter 605, Acts of the 77th Legislature, Regular  
8 Session, 2001, is amended by adding Sections 51.8245 and 51.8246 to  
9 read as follows:

10 Sec. 51.8245. PROGRAM ALTERNATES. (a) The council shall  
11 establish procedures by which the council selects from the annual  
12 pool of applicants for the program an appropriate number of  
13 eligible undergraduate students to serve as program alternates  
14 until the beginning of their senior year. The council shall rank  
15 program alternates according to their qualifications for the  
16 program and, immediately on the termination of the participation of  
17 a student previously admitted to the program, shall select the  
18 highest ranking program alternate to be a participating student  
19 under the program. The council may not select a program alternate  
20 to be a participating student after the first day of the fall  
21 semester of the alternate's senior year.

22 (b) The council shall establish procedures for program  
23 alternates to be matched to any required undergraduate mentoring  
24 program as described by Section 51.824(d). A program alternate  
25 selected under this section is limited to participating in  
26 mentoring activities and receiving other related counseling  
27 services under the program and must sign an agreement to that

1 effect.

2 (c) The council shall adopt criteria for program alternates  
3 to maintain their eligibility as program alternates.

4 Sec. 51.8246. CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS AND PROCEEDINGS.

5 (a) Student education records created or considered under the  
6 program are confidential and may be released only in accordance  
7 with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (20  
8 U.S.C. Section 1232g).

9 (b) A meeting or portion of a meeting of the council at which  
10 the education records or other personal information of individual  
11 students or the evaluation, eligibility, admission, or selection of  
12 individual students are discussed is not open to the public under  
13 Chapter 551, Government Code.

14 SECTION 4. Section 51.826, Education Code, is amended to  
15 read as follows:

16 Sec. 51.826. ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION TO PROGRAM. (a) To  
17 be eligible for admission to the program or for selection as a  
18 program alternate, an undergraduate student must:

19 (1) enroll at a general academic teaching institution  
20 or a private or independent institution of higher education not  
21 later than the first fall semester following the student's  
22 graduation from high school;

23 (2) be a Texas resident for purposes of tuition under  
24 Subchapter B, Chapter 54;

25 (3) except as provided by Subsection (c), successfully  
26 complete at least 15 semester credit hours during the fall semester  
27 of the student's freshman year at the general academic teaching

1 institution or the private or independent institution of higher  
2 education;

3 (4) apply for admission to the program at the  
4 beginning of the spring semester of the student's freshman year at  
5 the general academic teaching institution or the private or  
6 independent institution of higher education; and

7 (5) meet criteria established by the council  
8 regarding:

9 (A) minimum high school and undergraduate grade  
10 point averages;

11 (B) financial need and any other indication of  
12 economic disadvantage; and

13 (C) any other matter the council considers  
14 appropriate.

15 (b) For purposes of Subsection (a)(2), a student is not a  
16 Texas resident as described by that subdivision solely because the  
17 student is eligible to pay tuition at the resident tuition rate.

18 (c) The council shall adopt rules to admit to the program or  
19 to select as a program alternate an otherwise eligible  
20 undergraduate student who, for good cause, has not successfully  
21 completed the number of semester credit hours required under  
22 Subsection (a)(3). The council may not admit to the program or  
23 select as a program alternate an undergraduate student who has  
24 successfully completed fewer than nine semester credit hours.

25 SECTION 5. Subsection (a), Section 51.829, Education Code,  
26 is amended to read as follows:

27 (a) Each participating medical school must enter into an

1 agreement with the council under which the medical school agrees  
2 to:

3 (1) select a faculty member employed by the medical  
4 school to serve on the council;

5 (2) commit faculty and administrative resources to the  
6 program;

7 (3) set aside for participating students or, if  
8 necessary, nontraditional students described by Section 51.831 at  
9 least 10 percent of the medical school's enrollment capacity for  
10 each entering class, except as provided by Subsection (b);

11 (4) admit participating students who are matched to  
12 the medical school under the program;

13 (5) provide internship programs for participating  
14 students who have been matched to or are required to participate in  
15 those programs as described by Section 51.824(c) and coordinate the  
16 administration of those programs with general academic teaching  
17 institutions or private or independent institutions of higher  
18 education as necessary;

19 (6) provide for participating students and program  
20 alternates any mentoring programs required by the council at the  
21 undergraduate level and coordinate the administration of those  
22 programs with general academic teaching institutions or private or  
23 independent institutions of higher education as necessary; and

24 (7) provide support services, including  
25 postbaccalaureate mentoring programs required by the council, to  
26 participating students and, as applicable, nontraditional students  
27 described by Section 51.832 who enroll in the medical school.

1 SECTION 6. Section 51.830, Education Code, is amended to  
2 read as follows:

3 Sec. 51.830. COUNCIL AGREEMENT WITH GENERAL ACADEMIC  
4 TEACHING INSTITUTION. Each general academic teaching institution  
5 must enter into an agreement with the council under which the  
6 institution agrees to:

7 (1) provide academic counseling to a participating  
8 student or program alternate enrolled at that institution;

9 (2) as soon as practicable, implement or expand  
10 appropriate degree programs as necessary to provide participating  
11 students with sufficient preparation for enrollment in  
12 participating medical schools; and

13 (3) select a faculty director to assist in  
14 implementing the program at the institution and in implementing or  
15 expanding the institution's degree programs as necessary under  
16 Subdivision (2).

17 SECTION 7. Section 51.831, Education Code, is amended to  
18 read as follows:

19 Sec. 51.831. COUNCIL AGREEMENT WITH PRIVATE OR INDEPENDENT  
20 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION. Each private or independent  
21 institution of higher education must enter into an agreement with  
22 the council under which the institution agrees to:

23 (1) provide academic counseling to a participating  
24 student or program alternate enrolled at the institution;

25 (2) as soon as practicable, implement or expand  
26 appropriate degree programs as necessary to provide participating  
27 students with sufficient preparation for enrollment in

1 participating medical schools;

2 (3) select a faculty director to assist in  
3 implementing the program at the institution and in implementing or  
4 expanding the institution's degree programs as necessary under  
5 Subdivision (2); and

6 (4) provide a scholarship to a participating student  
7 in the amount required for a participating student attending a  
8 general academic teaching institution, but not to exceed the amount  
9 of tuition and fees that the student is charged.

10 SECTION 8. (a) The change in law made by Subchapter V,  
11 Chapter 51, Education Code, as amended by this Act, applies only to  
12 an application for admission to the Joint Admission Medical Program  
13 filed on or after the effective date of this Act.

14 (b) The Joint Admission Medical Program Council shall  
15 establish procedures and adopt rules regarding the selection of  
16 program alternates and participating students as required by  
17 Subchapter V, Chapter 51, Education Code, as amended by this Act,  
18 not later than November 1, 2003.

19 SECTION 9. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
20 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
21 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
22 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
23 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.