

By: Shapleigh

S.B. No. 68

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to increasing the number of students in medical education in Texas.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Sections 61.0903, 61.0904, and 61.0905 to read as follows:

Sec. 61.0903. EXTENDED UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION PREPARATION PROGRAM. The board shall examine the use of undergraduate programs that require more than four years of undergraduate course work to prepare students for graduate medical education to determine whether such a program would be feasible or effective in institutions of higher education in this state. Not later than December 1, 2006, the board shall report to the legislature the board's determination whether extended undergraduate medical education preparation programs may be effective in the education and training of physicians or other health care professionals in this state.

Sec. 61.0904. RECRUITING AND RETAINING UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS. (a) The board, in coordination with institutions of higher education, shall develop a strategy to coordinate recruitment and retention of students from backgrounds or geographic areas that are underrepresented in institutions of higher education in this state.

1 (b) In coordinating efforts under this section, the board
2 and institutions of higher education shall:

3 (1) identify best practices in recruitment and
4 retention efforts; and

5 (2) create regional joint programs to eliminate
6 duplicate or overlapping recruitment and retention programs.

7 Sec. 61.0905. MENTORING PILOT PROGRAM. (a) In this
8 section, "Texas-Mexico border region" has the meaning assigned by
9 Section 2056.002, Government Code.

10 (b) The board shall collaborate with the Texas Education
11 Agency to establish a pilot program to provide opportunities for
12 secondary school students in the Texas-Mexico border region who are
13 enrolled in health science technology and related courses to be
14 mentored by health care professionals or students enrolled in
15 undergraduate or graduate health science technology programs or
16 related programs. The pilot program should be designed to foster
17 student awareness of the health professions and encourage students
18 to pursue an education leading to a career in the health professions
19 and to enter into practice in the Texas-Mexico border region.

20 (c) The board shall provide mentoring opportunities at
21 three high schools in the pilot program's first year and add three
22 additional secondary schools in the second year. If the board
23 determines that the pilot program is successful, the board, to the
24 extent possible, shall expand the program throughout the
25 Texas-Mexico border region.

26 (d) Mentoring opportunities under the pilot program may be
27 provided by expanding existing mentoring programs.

1 (e) The entities participating in the pilot program shall
2 track, to the extent possible, students who are mentored to assess
3 the success of the mentoring efforts.

4 (f) The Texas Education Agency shall encourage school
5 districts to participate in the pilot program.

6 SECTION 2. Subchapter F, Chapter 29, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 29.189 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 29.189. SUMMER STUDY SCIENCE PROGRAMS FOR
9 UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS. The agency may establish a statewide
10 network of summer study science instruction programs for students
11 from groups or geographic areas that are underrepresented in the
12 fields of science and medicine.

13 SECTION 3. (a) In this section, "Texas-Mexico border
14 region" has the meaning assigned by Section 2056.002, Government
15 Code.

16 (b) Each school district in the Texas-Mexico border region
17 shall assess the adequacy of existing health science technology and
18 college preparatory courses and programs in the district's
19 secondary schools and the need to establish additional health
20 science technology and college preparatory courses and programs in
21 those schools. Each district shall submit the results of the
22 assessment to the Texas Education Agency. The Texas Education
23 Agency shall compile the assessments conducted under this
24 subsection and submit the compilation to the governor, the
25 lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the house of
26 representatives not later than September 1, 2006.

27 (c) This section expires January 1, 2007.

1 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.