

By: West

S.B. No. 1247

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to admission to the Joint Admission Medical Program.

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

SECTION 1. Subsections (b) and (c), Section 51.824, Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(b) From each general academic teaching institution, the council annually shall select for admission to the program at least two eligible undergraduate students who are enrolled as sophomores [~~freshmen~~] at that institution. The council shall allocate 10 percent of the total program openings on a rotation basis to private or independent institutions of higher education. The council shall allocate the remaining program openings to general academic teaching institutions as the council determines to be appropriate [~~in proportion to the average size of each institution's entering freshman class during the four-year period preceding the allocation~~].

(c) The council shall match each participating student with appropriate internship programs offered by participating medical schools during the summers immediately following the student's [~~freshman~~] sophomore[~~7~~] and junior years. A participating medical school to which a participating student is matched under Subsection (e) may require the student to participate in an internship program offered by the medical school during the summer immediately following the student's senior year.

1           SECTION 2. Subsections (a) and (c), Section 51.826,  
2 Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

3           (a) To be eligible for admission to the program or for  
4 selection as a program alternate, an undergraduate student must:

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

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

11                (3) except as provided by Subsection (c), successfully  
12 complete at least 27 [~~15~~] semester credit hours during the [~~fall~~  
13 ~~semester of the~~] student's freshman year at the general academic  
14 teaching institution or the private or independent institution of  
15 higher education;

16                (4) apply for admission to the program not later than  
17 September 1 [~~at the beginning~~] of the fall [~~spring~~] semester of the  
18 student's sophomore [~~freshman~~] year at the general academic  
19 teaching institution or the private or independent institution of  
20 higher education; and

21                (5) meet criteria established by the council  
22 regarding:

23                         (A) minimum high school and undergraduate grade  
24 point averages;

25                         (B) financial need and any other indication of  
26 economic disadvantage; and

27                         (C) any other matter the council considers

1 appropriate.

2 (c) The council shall adopt rules to admit to the program or  
3 to select as a program alternate an otherwise eligible  
4 undergraduate student who, for good cause, has not successfully  
5 completed the number of semester credit hours required under  
6 Subsection (a)(3). The council may not admit to the program or  
7 select as a program alternate an undergraduate student who has  
8 successfully completed fewer than 18 [~~nine~~] semester credit hours.

9 SECTION 3. Subchapter V, Chapter 51, Education Code, is  
10 amended by adding Section 51.8265 to read as follows:

11 Sec. 51.8265. PREADMISSION MENTORING AND ASSISTANCE.

12 (a) In order to maximize a student's potential for success in the  
13 program, the council shall identify students who may be eligible to  
14 participate in the program not later than the beginning of the first  
15 fall semester following the student's graduation from high school.

16 (b) An identified student who expresses an interest in  
17 participating in the program is entitled to the following  
18 assistance during the student's freshman year:

19 (1) regular meetings with a program faculty director  
20 to monitor the student's academic progress and advise the student  
21 in academic course work and career choices; and

22 (2) tutoring in courses as necessary, to be paid with  
23 program funds.

24 (c) A student who has applied for admission into the program  
25 and who meets the eligibility criteria as provided by Section  
26 51.826 is entitled to receive, during the fall semester of the  
27 student's sophomore year, the assistance described by Subsection

1 (b) and a scholarship in an amount determined by the council.

2 SECTION 4. Subsection (a), Section 51.827, Education Code,  
3 is amended to read as follows:

4 (a) To be eligible to continue participation in the program,  
5 an undergraduate student who is admitted to the program must:

6 (1) meet criteria established by the council  
7 regarding:

8 (A) courses taken and minimum grade point average  
9 for those courses during enrollment at the general academic  
10 teaching institution or the private or independent institution of  
11 higher education;

12 (B) progress in those courses;

13 (C) achievement of an acceptable score on the  
14 Medical College Admission Test or any equivalent examination taken  
15 as a precondition for enrollment in or admission to a participating  
16 medical school; and

17 (D) any other matter the council considers  
18 appropriate;

19 (2) participate in:

20 (A) internship programs described by Section  
21 51.824(c) in:

22 (i) the summers immediately following the  
23 student's [~~freshman~~] sophomore[~~7~~] and junior years; and

24 (ii) if required, the summer immediately  
25 following the student's senior year; and

26 (B) any undergraduate or graduate mentoring  
27 program required by the council; and

1           (3) exhibit intelligence, integrity, and personal and  
2 emotional characteristics that are considered necessary for the  
3 student to become an effective physician.

4           SECTION 5. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to  
5 an application for admission to the Joint Admission Medical Program  
6 filed on or after the effective date of this Act.

7           SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
8 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
9 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
10 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
11 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.