

1-1 By: West S.B. No. 1247
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 9, 2005; March 21, 2005, read
1-3 first time and referred to Subcommittee on Higher Education;
1-4 April 5, 2005, reported favorably to Committee on Education;
1-5 April 18, 2005, reported favorably from Committee on Education by
1-6 the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; April 18, 2005, sent to
1-7 printer.)

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to admission to the Joint Admission Medical Program.

1-11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-12 SECTION 1. Subsections (b) and (c), Section 51.824,
1-13 Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

1-14 (b) From each general academic teaching institution, the
1-15 council annually shall select for admission to the program at least
1-16 two eligible undergraduate students who are enrolled as sophomores
1-17 [~~freshmen~~] at that institution. The council shall allocate 10
1-18 percent of the total program openings on a rotation basis to private
1-19 or independent institutions of higher education. The council shall
1-20 allocate the remaining program openings to general academic
1-21 teaching institutions as the council determines to be appropriate
1-22 [~~in proportion to the average size of each institution's entering~~
1-23 ~~freshman class during the four-year period preceding the~~
1-24 ~~allocation~~].

1-25 (c) The council shall match each participating student with
1-26 appropriate internship programs offered by participating medical
1-27 schools during the summers immediately following the student's
1-28 [~~freshman,~~] sophomore[~~,~~] and junior years. A participating medical
1-29 school to which a participating student is matched under Subsection
1-30 (e) may require the student to participate in an internship program
1-31 offered by the medical school during the summer immediately
1-32 following the student's senior year.

1-33 SECTION 2. Subsections (a) and (c), Section 51.826,
1-34 Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

1-35 (a) To be eligible for admission to the program or for
1-36 selection as a program alternate, an undergraduate student must:

1-37 (1) enroll at a general academic teaching institution
1-38 or a private or independent institution of higher education not
1-39 later than the first fall semester following the student's
1-40 graduation from high school;

1-41 (2) be a Texas resident for purposes of tuition under
1-42 Subchapter B, Chapter 54;

1-43 (3) except as provided by Subsection (c), successfully
1-44 complete at least 27 [~~15~~] semester credit hours during the [~~fall~~
1-45 ~~semester of the~~] student's freshman year at the general academic
1-46 teaching institution or the private or independent institution of
1-47 higher education;

1-48 (4) apply for admission to the program not later than
1-49 September 1 [~~at the beginning~~] of the fall [~~spring~~] semester of the
1-50 student's sophomore [~~freshman~~] year at the general academic
1-51 teaching institution or the private or independent institution of
1-52 higher education; and

1-53 (5) meet criteria established by the council
1-54 regarding:

1-55 (A) minimum high school and undergraduate grade
1-56 point averages;

1-57 (B) financial need and any other indication of
1-58 economic disadvantage; and

1-59 (C) any other matter the council considers
1-60 appropriate.

1-61 (c) The council shall adopt rules to admit to the program or
1-62 to select as a program alternate an otherwise eligible
1-63 undergraduate student who, for good cause, has not successfully
1-64 completed the number of semester credit hours required under

2-1 Subsection (a)(3). The council may not admit to the program or
2-2 select as a program alternate an undergraduate student who has
2-3 successfully completed fewer than 18 [~~nine~~] semester credit hours.

2-4 SECTION 3. Subchapter V, Chapter 51, Education Code, is
2-5 amended by adding Section 51.8265 to read as follows:

2-6 Sec. 51.8265. PREAMMISSION MENTORING AND ASSISTANCE.

2-7 (a) In order to maximize a student's potential for success in the
2-8 program, the council shall identify students who may be eligible to
2-9 participate in the program not later than the beginning of the first
2-10 fall semester following the student's graduation from high school.

2-11 (b) An identified student who expresses an interest in
2-12 participating in the program is entitled to the following
2-13 assistance during the student's freshman year:

2-14 (1) regular meetings with a program faculty director
2-15 to monitor the student's academic progress and advise the student
2-16 in academic course work and career choices; and

2-17 (2) tutoring in courses as necessary, to be paid with
2-18 program funds.

2-19 (c) A student who has applied for admission into the program
2-20 and who meets the eligibility criteria as provided by Section
2-21 51.826 is entitled to receive, during the fall semester of the
2-22 student's sophomore year, the assistance described by Subsection
2-23 (b) and a scholarship in an amount determined by the council.

2-24 SECTION 4. Subsection (a), Section 51.827, Education Code,
2-25 is amended to read as follows:

2-26 (a) To be eligible to continue participation in the program,
2-27 an undergraduate student who is admitted to the program must:

2-28 (1) meet criteria established by the council
2-29 regarding:

2-30 (A) courses taken and minimum grade point average
2-31 for those courses during enrollment at the general academic
2-32 teaching institution or the private or independent institution of
2-33 higher education;

2-34 (B) progress in those courses;

2-35 (C) achievement of an acceptable score on the
2-36 Medical College Admission Test or any equivalent examination taken
2-37 as a precondition for enrollment in or admission to a participating
2-38 medical school; and

2-39 (D) any other matter the council considers
2-40 appropriate;

2-41 (2) participate in:

2-42 (A) internship programs described by Section
2-43 51.824(c) in:

2-44 (i) the summers immediately following the
2-45 student's [~~freshman~~] sophomore[~~7~~] and junior years; and

2-46 (ii) if required, the summer immediately
2-47 following the student's senior year; and

2-48 (B) any undergraduate or graduate mentoring
2-49 program required by the council; and

2-50 (3) exhibit intelligence, integrity, and personal and
2-51 emotional characteristics that are considered necessary for the
2-52 student to become an effective physician.

2-53 SECTION 5. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
2-54 an application for admission to the Joint Admission Medical Program
2-55 filed on or after the effective date of this Act.

2-56 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-57 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-58 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-59 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-60 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.

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