

By: West

S.B. No. 1601

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

relating to the operation of the Joint Admission Medical Program and to admission to the program.

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

SECTION 1. Subsections (a) and (b), 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 Subsection (b) and for selecting program alternates under Section 51.8245;

(4) monitor the implementation of the program;

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

(6) establish a process for participating students to:

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

(B) be matched to any required undergraduate

1 mentoring program as described by Subsection (d);

2 (C) apply for admission to participating medical
3 schools;

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

6 (E) enroll in that school;

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

11 (8) award graduate scholarships to participating
12 students [~~and, as applicable, nontraditional students described by~~
13 ~~Section 51.832~~];

14 (9) enter into an agreement with each student admitted
15 to the program, each program alternate, each participating medical
16 school, and each general academic teaching institution or private
17 or independent institution of higher education as required by this
18 subchapter; and

19 (10) take any other action necessary to implement the
20 program.

21 (b) From each general academic teaching institution, the
22 council annually shall select for admission to the program [~~at~~
23 ~~least~~] two eligible undergraduate students who are enrolled as
24 sophomores at that institution. From each private or independent
25 institution of higher education, the council annually shall select
26 for admission to the program one eligible undergraduate student who
27 is enrolled as a sophomore at that institution [~~The council shall~~

1 ~~allocate 10 percent of the total program openings on a rotation~~
2 ~~basis to private or independent institutions of higher education].~~
3 The council shall allocate the remaining program openings to
4 participating [~~general academic teaching~~] institutions as the
5 council determines to be appropriate. If there are insufficient
6 program openings to accommodate two students from each general
7 academic teaching institution and one student from each private or
8 independent institution of higher education, the council shall
9 select students for admission to the program to achieve the purpose
10 of this subchapter, with no more than 30 percent of the program
11 openings allocated to students from private or independent
12 institutions of higher education.

13 SECTION 2. Section 51.826, Education Code, is amended to
14 read as follows:

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

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

22 (2) be enrolled at a general academic teaching
23 institution or a private or independent institution of higher
24 education at the time of application to the program;

25 (3) be a Texas resident for purposes of tuition under
26 Subchapter B, Chapter 54;

27 (4) [~~(3)~~] except as provided by Subsection (c),

1 successfully complete at least 27 semester credit hours during the
2 student's freshman year [~~at the general academic teaching~~
3 ~~institution or the private or independent institution of higher~~
4 ~~education~~];

5 (5) [~~(4)~~] apply for admission to the program not later
6 than the date designated by the council during [~~September 1 of~~] the
7 fall semester of the student's sophomore year at the general
8 academic teaching institution or the private or independent
9 institution of higher education; and

10 (6) [~~(5)~~] meet criteria established by the council
11 regarding:

12 (A) minimum high school and undergraduate grade
13 point averages;

14 (B) financial need and any other indication of
15 economic disadvantage; and

16 (C) any other matter the council considers
17 appropriate.

18 (b) For purposes of Subsection (a)(3) [~~(a)(2)~~], a student is
19 not a Texas resident as described by that subdivision solely
20 because the student is eligible to pay tuition at the resident
21 tuition rate.

22 (c) The council shall adopt rules to admit to the program or
23 to select as a program alternate an otherwise eligible
24 undergraduate student who, for good cause, has not successfully
25 completed the number of semester credit hours required under
26 Subsection (a)(4) [~~(a)(3)~~]. The council may not admit to the
27 program or select as a program alternate an undergraduate student

1 who has successfully completed fewer than 18 semester credit hours.

2 SECTION 3. Subsection (b), Section 51.8265, Education Code,
3 is amended to read as follows:

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

7 (1) regular meetings with a program faculty director
8 or an academic or health professions advisor to monitor the
9 student's academic progress and advise the student in academic
10 course work and career choices; and

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

13 SECTION 4. Subsection (a), Section 51.829, Education Code,
14 is amended to read as follows:

15 (a) Each participating medical school must enter into an
16 agreement with the council under which the medical school agrees
17 to:

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

20 (2) commit faculty and administrative resources to the
21 program;

22 (3) set aside for participating students [~~or, if~~
23 ~~necessary, nontraditional students described by Section 51.831~~] at
24 least 10 percent of the medical school's enrollment capacity for
25 each entering class, except as provided by Subsection (b);

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

1 (5) provide internship programs for participating
2 students who have been matched to or are required to participate in
3 those programs as described by Section 51.824(c) and coordinate the
4 administration of those programs with general academic teaching
5 institutions or private or independent institutions of higher
6 education as necessary;

7 (6) provide for participating students and program
8 alternates any mentoring programs required by the council at the
9 undergraduate level and coordinate the administration of those
10 programs with general academic teaching institutions or private or
11 independent institutions of higher education as necessary; and

12 (7) provide support services, including
13 postbaccalaureate mentoring programs required by the council, to
14 participating students [~~and, as applicable, nontraditional~~
15 ~~students described by Section 51.832~~] who enroll in the medical
16 school.

17 SECTION 5. Section 51.830, Education Code, is amended to
18 read as follows:

19 Sec. 51.830. COUNCIL AGREEMENT WITH GENERAL ACADEMIC
20 TEACHING INSTITUTION. Each general academic teaching institution
21 must enter into an agreement with the council under which the
22 institution agrees to:

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

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

6 SECTION 6. Section 51.831, Education Code, is amended to
7 read as follows:

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

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

14 (2) as soon as practicable, implement or expand
15 appropriate degree programs as necessary to provide participating
16 students with sufficient preparation for enrollment in
17 participating medical schools;

18 (3) select a faculty director or an academic or health
19 professions advisor to assist in implementing the program at the
20 institution and in implementing or expanding the institution's
21 degree programs as necessary under Subdivision (2); and

22 (4) provide a scholarship to a participating student
23 in the amount required for a participating student attending a
24 general academic teaching institution, but not to exceed the amount
25 of tuition and fees that the student is charged.

26 SECTION 7. Subsection (a), Section 51.833, Education Code,
27 is amended to read as follows:

1 (a) The council may accept a gift, grant, devise, or bequest
2 of money, securities, service, or property to carry out any purpose
3 of this subchapter, including funds raised or services provided by
4 a volunteer or volunteer group to promote the work of the council.
5 The council's administrative staff may participate in the
6 establishment and operation of an affiliated nonprofit
7 organization whose purpose is to raise funds for or provide
8 services or other benefits to the council [~~solicit and accept gifts~~
9 ~~and grants from any public or private source for the purposes of~~
10 ~~this subchapter~~].

11 SECTION 8. Section 51.832, Education Code, is repealed.

12 SECTION 9. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
13 an application for admission to the Joint Admission Medical Program
14 filed on or after the effective date of this Act.

15 SECTION 10. This Act takes effect immediately if it
16 receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each
17 house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution.
18 If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate
19 effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2007.