

BILL ANALYSIS

S.B. 1728
By: West
Higher Education
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The Joint Admissions Medical Program (JAMP) is the pipeline to medical school for economically disadvantaged students and represents a partnership between the eight medical schools in the state and the 65 public and private undergraduate institutions to achieve a more diverse medical school pool.

The bill amends current law relating to the administration of and eligibility for the Joint Admissions Medical Program.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

The bill amends Section 51.826(a) of the Education Code to delete existing text requiring an undergraduate student, to be eligible for admission to the Joint Admission Medical Program or for selection as a program alternate, to have enrolled at an institution of higher education not later than the first fall semester following the student's graduation from high school. The bill adds the medical school at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at Lubbock and the medical school at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso as eligible schools for the program.

The bill repeals Sections 51.823(b) (relating to a prohibition against a person serving on the Joint Admission Medical Program Council for more than six consecutive years) and 51.8265(c) (relating to the entitlement of a student to receive certain assistance), Education Code.

The bill requires the medical school at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso, as soon as practicable after the effective date of this bill, to enter into the agreement with the Joint Admission Medical Program Council required by Section 51.829, Education Code; and select an appropriate faculty member to represent the medical school on the council.

The bill requires the medical school at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso to provide internships and mentoring under the Joint Admission Medical Program as appropriate beginning with the 2011-2012 academic year, but is not required before the 2012-2013 academic year to admit participating students to the medical school under the program.

The bill makes non-substantive and conforming changes. The bill also makes the application of this Act prospective.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Upon passage, or, if the Act does not receive the necessary vote, the Act takes effect September 1, 2009.