

By: Watson

S.B. No. 1648

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of an academic health center by a university system.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 51, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter I to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER I. ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTERS

Sec. 51.451. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Coordinating board" means the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

(2) "General academic teaching institution," "governing board," and "university system" have the meanings assigned by Section 61.003.

Sec. 51.452. ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTER. An academic health center is a program that integrates biomedical and clinical research, patient care, and predoctoral and postdoctoral teaching provided by multiple participating institutions, schools, and programs.

Sec. 51.453. ESTABLISHMENT. The governing board of a university system may establish an academic health center as a program of institutions of higher education under the board's control and direction if the system meets the criteria provided by this subchapter, as determined by the coordinating board. The center must include as participants:

1 (1) one or more allopathic or osteopathic medical
2 schools;

3 (2) two or more health professional schools or
4 programs, such as nursing, public health, or pharmacy schools or
5 programs;

6 (3) one or more undergraduate degree programs of a
7 general academic teaching institution; and

8 (4) one or more graduate degree programs of a general
9 academic teaching institution.

10 Sec. 51.454. DEMONSTRATION OF NEED AND SUPPORT. (a) The
11 coordinating board shall approve the establishment of an academic
12 health center under Section 51.453 if the coordinating board finds
13 that the university system seeking to establish the center has
14 demonstrated:

15 (1) a need for the center based on applicable
16 statewide and regional factors, including:

17 (A) demographic factors such as:
18 (i) age, income, and health condition; and
19 (ii) rate of persons without health care
20 coverage; and

21 (B) present or predicted physician-to-population
22 ratios or physician shortages in identified specialties;

23 (2) the system's ability to provide a teaching
24 hospital and other facilities adequate to support the center's
25 research, education, and clinical activities, considering the
26 proximity and availability of existing complementary facilities
27 and programs;

1 (3) the center's capacity to expend in the aggregate a
2 minimum of \$50 million annually in federally sponsored or privately
3 sponsored research, as evidenced by the research contracts of
4 participating institutions, provided that the center will
5 participate in those contracts;

6 (4) community support from a combination of state and
7 local governments, charities, chambers of commerce, hospitals, and
8 medical societies, as evidenced by commitments of financial and
9 other resources with an aggregate value of at least \$35 million; and

10 (5) a well-defined business plan that includes
11 identified financial resources estimated to be sufficient for the
12 ongoing support of the center, including support for medical
13 residencies.

14 (b) Health condition information considered under
15 Subsection (a)(1)(A)(i) may include health condition information
16 relating to rates of disabilities, infant mortality, obesity, or
17 diabetes or other chronic conditions.

18 Sec. 51.455. EFFECT ON FORMULA FUNDING. For purposes of the
19 appropriation formulas recommended by the coordinating board under
20 Section 61.059, a student of an academic health center established
21 under this subchapter is considered to be a student of a
22 health-related institution to the extent that formula funding of
23 health-related institutions applies to the discipline in which the
24 student is enrolled.

25 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
26 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
27 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

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1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

2 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.