

By: Alonzo, Vo, Guerra

H.B. No. 451

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an optometry career program at the University of Houston.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 111, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 111.43 to read as follows:

Sec. 111.43. OPTOMETRY CAREER PROGRAM. (a) The university may operate a summer program that prepares highly qualified, economically disadvantaged junior-level, senior-level, and postbaccalaureate students from any public or private institution of higher education for advanced studies and a career in the field of optometry. The program may include:

(1) courses in improvement of study skills and Optometry Admission Test preparation courses;

(2) a review of selected undergraduate academic courses that are prerequisites for admission to advanced degree programs in optometry;

(3) academic courses that are designed to familiarize students with the course work in advanced degree programs in optometry;

(4) clinical work; and

(5) extracurricular activities, including observing professionals in the field of optometry.

(b) To the extent practicable, and consistent with the

1 purposes of the program, the university shall operate the program
2 in a manner that assists students in obtaining course credit for the
3 program from their respective institutions of higher education.

4 (c) The university shall:

5 (1) recruit eligible undergraduate or
6 postbaccalaureate students for admission to the program;

7 (2) establish an application process for admitting
8 eligible undergraduate or postbaccalaureate students to the
9 program;

10 (3) develop reasonable requirements for admission to
11 the program;

12 (4) monitor the implementation of the program; and

13 (5) assist in developing services, including career
14 counseling, to support and encourage the pursuit of advanced
15 studies and careers in the field of optometry.

16 (d) The university may solicit and accept gifts and grants
17 from any public or private source, including a corporation or other
18 entity, to fund a program operated as provided by this section. The
19 legislature may appropriate money for the purposes of this section.

20 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
21 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
22 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
23 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
24 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.