

By: Alonzo

H.B. No. 451

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to an optometry career program at the University of  
3 Houston.

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 (4) clinical work; and

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

24 (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.