

BILL ANALYSIS

C.S.S.B. 479
By: Watson
Higher Education
Committee Report (Substituted)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

It has been noted that two recently established Texas medical schools, the Dell Medical School at The University of Texas at Austin and the School of Medicine at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, have not been added to the joint admission medical program, which assists qualified economically disadvantaged students in preparing for and succeeding in medical school. C.S.S.B. 479 seeks to make the necessary update by providing for the inclusion of those medical schools in the program and also includes the Dell Medical School among the institutions eligible for funding from the permanent health fund for higher education.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPACT

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly create a criminal offense, increase the punishment for an existing criminal offense or category of offenses, or change the eligibility of a person for community supervision, parole, or mandatory supervision.

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

C.S.S.B. 479 amends the Education Code to classify the Dell Medical School at The University of Texas at Austin and the School of Medicine at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley as medical and dental units for purposes of the Higher Education Coordinating Act of 1965. The bill includes both medical schools among the participating medical schools in the joint admission medical program.

C.S.S.B. 479 requires the Dell Medical School at The University of Texas at Austin and the School of Medicine at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley each to enter into the requisite agreement with the Joint Admission Medical Program Council and to select an appropriate faculty member to represent the respective medical school on the council. The bill requires each of the medical schools to provide internships and mentoring under the program as appropriate beginning not later than the 2020-2021 academic year, but expressly does not require the medical schools to admit participating students under the program before the 2022-2023 academic year. The bill includes the Dell Medical School at the University of Texas at Austin among the health-related institutions of higher education eligible to receive distributions from the permanent health fund for higher education for applicable programs, beginning with allocations for the state fiscal year that begins September 1, 2019.

EFFECTIVE DATE

On passage, or, if the bill does not receive the necessary vote, September 1, 2019.

COMPARISON OF SENATE ENGROSSED AND SUBSTITUTE

While C.S.S.B. 479 may differ from the engrossed in minor or nonsubstantive ways, the following summarizes the substantial differences between the engrossed and committee substitute versions of the bill.

The substitute does not include the School of Medicine at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley among the health-related institutions of higher education that are eligible to receive funds distributed from the permanent health fund for higher education for certain programs.

The substitute changes the year in which the medical schools are required to begin providing internships and mentoring under the joint admission medical program from the 2019-2020 academic year to not later than the 2020-2021 academic year.