By:  Zerwas, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Huffman) H.B. No. 826

(In the Senate - Received from the House April 3, 2019; April 4, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on Higher Education; April 16, 2019, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; April 16, 2019, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

               Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Creighton       X

West            X

Bettencourt     X

Buckingham      X

Flores          X

Menéndez        X

Powell          X

Taylor          X

Watson          X

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the University of Houston College of Medicine at the University of Houston.

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

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

SUBCHAPTER K. UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Sec. 111.151.  DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1)  "Board" means the board of regents of the University of Houston System.

(2)  "College" means the University of Houston College of Medicine established under this subchapter.

Sec. 111.152.  THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON COLLEGE OF MEDICINE. The University of Houston College of Medicine is a college of the University of Houston and is under the management and control of the board with degrees offered under the name and authority of the University of Houston.

Sec. 111.153.  COURSES AND DEGREES. The board may prescribe courses leading to customary degrees and may adopt rules for the operation, control, and management of the college as necessary for conducting a college of medicine of the first class.

Sec. 111.154.  AFFILIATION AGREEMENTS. The dean of the college, on behalf of the board, may execute and carry out an affiliation or coordinating agreement with any other entity or institution in the college's region.

Sec. 111.155.  GIFTS AND GRANTS. The board may solicit, accept, and administer gifts and grants from any public or private source for the use and benefit of the college.

Sec. 111.156.  OTHER FACILITIES. In addition to the college's facilities, the board may enter into agreements under which additional facilities used in the college's teaching and research programs, including libraries, auditoriums, research facilities, and medical education buildings, may be provided by a public or private entity.

Sec. 111.157.  TEACHING HOSPITAL. A teaching hospital considered suitable by the board may be provided by a public or private entity. The hospital may not be constructed, maintained, or operated with state funds.

SECTION 2.  Sections 59.01(1) and (3), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(1)  "Medical staff or students" means medical doctors, doctors of osteopathy, dentists, veterinarians, and podiatrists appointed to the faculty or professional medical staff employed for student health services by The University of Texas System, The Texas A&M University System, the Texas Tech University System, the University of Houston College of Medicine, or the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth, either full time or who, although appointed less than full time (including volunteers), either devote their total professional service to such appointment or provide services to patients by assignment from the department chairman; and interns, residents, fellows, and medical or dental students, veterinary students, and students of osteopathy participating in a patient-care program in The University of Texas System, The Texas A&M University System, the Texas Tech University System, the University of Houston College of Medicine, or the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth.

(3)  "Board" means the board of regents of The University of Texas System, the board of regents of The Texas A&M University System, the board of regents of the Texas Tech University System, the board of regents of the University of Houston System, or the board of regents of the University of North Texas.

SECTION 3.  Sections 59.02(a) and (c), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a)  Each board may establish a separate self-insurance fund to pay any damages adjudged in a court of competent jurisdiction or a settlement of any medical malpractice claim against a member of the medical staff or students arising from the exercise of the member's [~~his~~] appointment, duties, or training with The University of Texas System, The Texas A&M University System, the Texas Tech University System, the University of Houston College of Medicine, or the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth.

(c)  On the establishment of each fund, transfers to the fund shall be made in an amount and at such intervals as determined by the board.  Each board may receive and accept any gifts or donations specified for the purposes of this subchapter and deposit those gifts or donations into the fund.  Each board may invest money deposited in the fund, and any income received shall be retained in the fund.  The money shall be deposited in any of the approved depository banks of The University of Texas System, The Texas A&M University System, the Texas Tech University System, the University of Houston System, or the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth.  All expenditures from the funds shall be paid pursuant to approval by the boards.

SECTION 4.  Section 59.06, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 59.06.  LIMITATION ON APPROPRIATED FUNDS. Funds appropriated by the legislature to either system, to the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, to the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso, to the University of Houston for the University of Houston College of Medicine, or to the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth from the General Revenue Fund may not be used to establish or maintain the fund, to purchase insurance, or to employ private legal counsel.

SECTION 5.  Section 61.003(5), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(5)  "Medical and dental unit" means The Texas A&M University System Health Science Center and its component institutions, agencies, and programs; the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center; the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso; the University of Houston College of Medicine; The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston; The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center; The University of Texas Medical School at San Antonio; The University of Texas Dental Branch at Houston; The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center; The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Houston; The University of Texas Dental School at San Antonio; The University of Texas Medical School at Houston; The University of Texas Health Science Center--South Texas and its component institutions, if established under Subchapter N, Chapter 74; the nursing institutions of The Texas A&M University System and The University of Texas System; and The University of Texas School of Public Health at Houston; and such other medical or dental schools as may be established by statute or as provided in this chapter.

SECTION 6.  Section 61.501(1), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(1)  "Medical school" means the medical school at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, the medical school at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, the medical school at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, the medical school at The University of Texas at Austin, the medical school at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, the medical education program of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler, the medical school at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, the medical school at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso, the University of Houston College of Medicine, the Baylor College of Medicine, the college of osteopathic medicine at the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth, or the medical school at the Texas A&M University Health Science Center.

SECTION 7.  Section 63.002(c), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c)  The amount available for distribution from the fund may be appropriated only for programs that benefit medical research, health education, or treatment programs at the following health-related institutions of higher education:

(1)  The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio;

(2)  The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center;

(3)  The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center;

(4)  The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston;

(5)  The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston;

(6)  The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler;

(7)  The University of Texas Health Science Center--South Texas and its component institutions, if established under Subchapter N, Chapter 74;

(8)  The Texas A&M University Health Science Center;

(9)  the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth;

(10)  the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center;

(11)  the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso; [~~and~~]

(12)  the University of Houston College of Medicine; and

(13)  Baylor College of Medicine, if a contract between Baylor College of Medicine and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is in effect under Section 61.092.

SECTION 8.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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