

AN ACT

relating to the Joint Admission Medical Program Council.

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

SECTION 1. Section 51.822, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 51.822. JOINT ADMISSION MEDICAL PROGRAM. The Joint Admission Medical Program is a program administered by the Joint Admission Medical Program Council to:

(1) provide mentoring and academic services to support and encourage highly qualified, economically disadvantaged students pursuing a medical education to complete a medical degree and meet state workforce needs;

(2) award undergraduate and graduate scholarships and summer stipends to those students; ~~and~~

(3) guarantee and facilitate the admission of those students to at least one participating medical school, subject to the conditions under Section 51.827 and under other provisions of this subchapter;

(4) align statewide educational and workforce goals to increase medical jobs and stop workforce shortages; and

(5) promote the accessibility and equality of medical education by addressing statewide barriers to entry and participation for economically disadvantaged communities.

SECTION 2. Section 51.823, Education Code, is amended to

1 read as follows:

2           Sec. 51.823. COMPOSITION OF COUNCIL.           (a)           The  
3 participating medical schools shall jointly establish the Joint  
4 Admission Medical Program Council. The council shall consist  
5 ~~[consisting]~~ of one faculty member employed by and representing  
6 each of the participating medical schools.

7           (c) The council shall select one of its members to serve as  
8 council chair for a term of two years. The chair shall:

- 9                   (1) facilitate council meetings;  
10                   (2) ensure compliance with program goals; and  
11                   (3) represent the council in interactions with  
12 relevant stakeholders, including the Texas Medical and Dental  
13 Schools Application Service and legislative committees.

14           (d) The council shall establish clear policies to ensure  
15 effective communication among council members, including:

- 16                   (1) procedures for convening regular meetings to  
17 review program implementation and evaluate outcomes;  
18                   (2) protocols for disseminating an agenda or report  
19 before a meeting;  
20                   (3) mechanisms for soliciting feedback from council  
21 members to promote transparency and collaboration; and  
22                   (4) procedures for promoting public meetings to  
23 students.

24           SECTION 3. Subchapter V, Chapter 51, Education Code, is  
25 amended by adding Section 51.8235 to read as follows:

26           Sec. 51.8235. COUNCIL MEETINGS. The council shall provide  
27 notice of each council meeting, which must:

1           (1) be:

2                   (A) posted in a place readily accessible and  
3 available to the general public, including the program's Internet  
4 website, at all times for at least 72 hours before the scheduled  
5 time of the meeting; and

6                   (B) distributed by e-mail, electronic media, or  
7 other electronic notification sent directly to each participating  
8 student at least 72 hours before the scheduled time of the meeting;  
9 and

10           (2) include sufficient detail regarding the meeting's  
11 agenda to inform participants and the general public of the topics  
12 to be discussed or decided.

13           SECTION 4. Section 51.824(a), Education Code, is amended to  
14 read as follows:

15           (a) The council shall:

16                   (1) recruit eligible undergraduate students for  
17 admission to the program;

18                   (2) establish an application process for admitting  
19 eligible undergraduate students to the program;

20                   (3) evaluate applications for admission to the program  
21 according to the procedures for selecting participating students  
22 under Subsection (b) and for selecting program alternates under  
23 Section 51.8245;

24                   (4) monitor the implementation of the program;

25                   (5) assist in developing services to support and  
26 encourage the pursuit of a medical education by participating  
27 students and program alternates;

- 1           (6) establish a process for participating students to:
- 2                 (A) be matched to an internship program as
- 3 described by Subsection (c);
- 4                 (B) be matched to any required undergraduate
- 5 mentoring program as described by Subsection (d);
- 6                 (C) apply for admission to participating medical
- 7 schools;
- 8                 (D) be matched to a participating medical school
- 9 as described by Subsection (e); and
- 10                (E) enroll in that school;
- 11           (7) award to participating students undergraduate
- 12 scholarships and summer stipends, including a summer stipend for a
- 13 student who is required to participate in an internship program in
- 14 the summer immediately following the student's senior year;
- 15           (8) award graduate scholarships to participating
- 16 students;
- 17           (9) enter into an agreement with each student admitted
- 18 to the program, each program alternate, each participating medical
- 19 school, and each general academic teaching institution or private
- 20 or independent institution of higher education as required by this
- 21 subchapter; ~~and~~
- 22           (10) pursue opportunities to increase scholarship
- 23 money allocated to participating students to at least 30 percent of
- 24 the total amount appropriated for purposes of the program without
- 25 impeding the implementation of other program functions and goals,
- 26 including:
- 27                 (A) coordinating efforts with the Texas Higher

1 Education Coordinating Board to request additional legislative  
2 appropriations;

3 (B) soliciting gifts, grants, and donations  
4 under Section 51.833;

5 (C) collaborating with private foundations,  
6 corporations, and entities to secure supplemental funding; and

7 (D) prioritizing increasing the amount of  
8 graduate medical scholarships over increasing the amount of other  
9 scholarships;

10 (11) ensure that participating students are aware of  
11 available counseling and relief services; and

12 (12) take any other action necessary to implement the  
13 program.

14 SECTION 5. Section 51.834, Education Code, is amended by  
15 amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (c) to read as  
16 follows:

17 (b) The report must contain detailed information regarding:

18 (1) any problems the council identifies in  
19 implementing the program, including external or internal  
20 challenges, deficiencies, or obstacles, with recommended solutions  
21 for those problems, including recommendations for legislative  
22 action to streamline and enhance the implementation of the program;

23 (2) an accounting of all [~~the expenditure of any~~]  
24 money spent and received under this subchapter, including:

25 (A) legislative appropriations and private  
26 funding sources;

27 (B) breakdowns of disbursements;

1                    (C) the specific purposes for which money was  
2 used; and

3                    (D) a statement of the ending balance and any  
4 unobligated and unexpended money remaining for the state fiscal  
5 year; [and]

6                    (3) the total number of students who are admitted to  
7 the program;

8                    (4) the number of students who are admitted to the  
9 program and who are enrolled in each year of a baccalaureate,  
10 graduate, or professional degree program offered by:

11                    (A) a general academic teaching institution;

12                    (B) [~~7~~] a private or independent institution of  
13 higher education; [~~7~~] or

14                    (C) a participating medical school, as  
15 applicable;

16                    (5) the number of students, disaggregated by year of  
17 enrollment, who, while enrolled in a baccalaureate, graduate, or  
18 professional degree program at a general academic teaching  
19 institution, private or independent institution of higher  
20 education, or participating medical school, as applicable:

21                    (A) were dismissed or withdrawn from the program  
22 by the council;

23                    (B) were placed on probation by the council; or

24                    (C) voluntarily withdrew from the program;

25                    (6) enrollment, withdrawal, and disciplinary data for  
26 students described by Subdivision (5) for each academic year of a  
27 baccalaureate, graduate, or professional degree program at a

1 general academic teaching institution, private or independent  
2 institution of higher education, or participating medical school;

3 (7) expenditures for graduate scholarships awarded to  
4 participating medical students, including:

5 (A) the amount awarded and disbursed to each  
6 participating medical student;

7 (B) if there is unobligated and unexpended money  
8 that may be spent on graduate scholarships at the end of a state  
9 fiscal year, the reason why that money was not spent;

10 (C) any constraints delaying the reallocation of  
11 unobligated money to medical school scholarship recipients,  
12 including institutional policies; and

13 (D) a plan for applying or reallocating  
14 unobligated money in a manner that ensures accountability and  
15 sustainability;

16 (8) an estimate of the total amount of program funding  
17 required for the next state fiscal biennium to maintain enrollment  
18 and operations and increase the graduate scholarship amount for  
19 medical school scholarship recipients, including requirements  
20 under Section 51.824, including:

21 (A) projections based on current and anticipated  
22 scholarship demands;

23 (B) recommendations for appropriations  
24 specifying the additional money needed; and

25 (C) a formal request or petition for supplemental  
26 funding to ensure the program's financial stability and capacity to  
27 meet future demands;

1           (9) the amount of gifts, grants, and donations  
2 received under Section 51.833; and

3           (10) any notes, agendas, minutes, and reports made in  
4 regard to council meetings, including:

5                   (A) the dates, times, and locations of all  
6 council meetings;

7                   (B) measures to ensure that students  
8 participating in the program are informed of upcoming council  
9 meetings in a timely and accessible manner, including through  
10 direct communication;

11                   (C) provisions to allow student participation in  
12 the council meetings, including:

13                           (i) opportunities for students to attend  
14 meetings as observers, witnesses, and participants; and

15                           (ii) procedures for soliciting student  
16 feedback and input before the adoption of significant decisions  
17 regarding the program; and

18                   (D) policies to ensure the council does not  
19 violate Chapter 551, Government Code.

20           (c) All data reported under this section must be:

21                   (1) disaggregated by the type of institution and  
22 academic year; and

23                   (2) reported in a manner that ensures compliance with  
24 the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C.  
25 Section 1232g).

26           SECTION 6. Subchapter V, Chapter 51, Education Code, is  
27 amended by adding Section 51.835 to read as follows:

1       Sec. 51.835. ONLINE FEEDBACK PORTAL. (a) The council shall  
2 develop and maintain a secure online portal to allow students in the  
3 program to submit anonymous or identified recommendations and  
4 complaints regarding the program. The portal must:

5           (1) ensure anonymity for all submissions submitted  
6 anonymously, using encryption and other privacy safeguards to  
7 protect the identity of the student making the submission;

8           (2) be accessible through different platforms,  
9 including mobile devices; and

10          (3) use an intuitive and user-friendly interface to  
11 encourage participation and ease of use.

12       (b) The council shall review complaints or recommendations  
13 submitted through the online portal on a regular basis to identify  
14 potential areas for improvement.

15       (c) A complaint or recommendation submitted through the  
16 online portal must be:

17           (1) shared with the Texas Medical and Dental Schools  
18 Application Service and other relevant stakeholders, as authorized  
19 by law; and

20           (2) compiled into a report to be:

21                   (A) included in the council's report under  
22 Section 51.834;

23                   (B) posted on the council's Internet website; and

24                   (C) submitted to participating students and the  
25 standing legislative committees with primary jurisdiction over  
26 higher education.

27       (d) The council shall establish procedures to ensure that

1 complaints and recommendations submitted through the online portal  
2 are addressed in a timely and transparent manner, including by  
3 developing:

4 (1) a tracking system to monitor the resolution of  
5 complaints and recommendations;

6 (2) a mechanism to categorize submissions by topic and  
7 urgency to prioritize responses effectively; and

8 (3) a process for notifying a student of actions taken  
9 in response to the student's complaint or recommendation, excluding  
10 information that would violate a student's expectation of privacy.

11 (e) The council shall promote the online portal to  
12 participating students, including by providing information during  
13 student orientation, via e-mail, and through the program's Internet  
14 website.

15 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
16 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
17 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
18 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
19 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 5154 was passed by the House on May 13, 2025, by the following vote: Yeas 131, Nays 11, 3 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 5154 on May 28, 2025, by the following vote: Yeas 100, Nays 36, 1 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 5154 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 25, 2025, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor