

By: West
S.B. No. 1601

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the operation of the Joint Admission Medical Program and to admission to the program.

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

SECTION 1. Subsections (a) and (b), Section 51.824, Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) The council shall:

- (1) recruit eligible undergraduate students for admission to the program;
- (2) establish an application process for admitting eligible undergraduate students to the program;
- (3) evaluate applications for admission to the program according to the procedures for selecting participating students under Subsection (b) and for selecting program alternates under Section 51.8245;
- (4) monitor the implementation of the program;
- (5) assist in developing services to support and encourage the pursuit of a medical education by participating students and[~~and, as applicable, nontraditional students described by Section 51.832~~];
- (6) establish a process for participating students to:
 - (A) be matched to an internship program as described by Subsection (c);
 - (B) be matched to any required undergraduate mentoring program as described by Subsection (d);
 - (C) apply for admission to participating medical schools;
 - (D) be matched to a participating medical school as described by Subsection (e); and
 - (E) enroll in that school;
- (7) award to participating students undergraduate scholarships and summer stipends, including a summer stipend for a student who is required to participate in an internship program in the summer immediately following the student's senior year;
- (8) award graduate scholarships to participating students [~~and, as applicable, nontraditional students described by Section 51.832~~];
- (9) enter into an agreement with each student admitted to the program, each program alternate, each participating medical school, and each general academic teaching institution or private or independent institution of higher education as required by this subchapter; and
- (10) take any other action necessary to implement the program.

(b) From each general academic teaching institution, the

council annually shall select for admission to the program [~~at least~~] two eligible undergraduate students who are enrolled as sophomores at that institution. From each private or independent institution of higher education, the council annually shall select for admission to the program one eligible undergraduate student who is enrolled as a sophomore at that institution [~~The council shall allocate 10 percent of the total program openings on a rotation basis to private or independent institutions of higher education~~]. The council shall allocate the remaining program openings to participating [~~general academic teaching~~] institutions as the council determines to be appropriate. If there are insufficient program openings to accommodate two students from each general academic teaching institution and one student from each private or independent institution of higher education, the council shall select students for admission to the program to achieve the purpose of this subchapter, with no more than 30 percent of the program openings allocated to students from private or independent institutions of higher education.

SECTION 2. Section 51.826, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 51.826. ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION TO PROGRAM. (a) To be eligible for admission to the program or for selection as a program alternate, an undergraduate student must:

(1) have enrolled [~~enroll~~] at an [~~a general academic teaching institution or a private or independent~~] institution of higher education not later than the first fall semester following the student's graduation from high school;

(2) be enrolled at a general academic teaching institution or a private or independent institution of higher education at the time of application to the program;

(3) be a Texas resident for purposes of tuition under Subchapter B, Chapter 54;

(4) [~~(3)~~] except as provided by Subsection (c), successfully complete at least 27 semester credit hours during the student's freshman year [~~at the general academic teaching institution or the private or independent institution of higher education~~];

(5) [~~(4)~~] apply for admission to the program not later than the date designated by the council during [~~September 1 of~~] the fall semester of the student's sophomore year at the general academic teaching institution or the private or independent institution of higher education; and

(6) [~~(5)~~] meet criteria established by the council regarding:

(A) minimum high school and undergraduate grade point averages;

(B) financial need and any other indication of economic disadvantage; and

(C) any other matter the council considers appropriate.

(b) For purposes of Subsection (a)(3) [~~(a)(2)~~], a student is not a Texas resident as described by that subdivision solely because the student is eligible to pay tuition at the resident tuition rate.

(c) The council shall adopt rules to admit to the program or to select as a program alternate an otherwise eligible undergraduate student who, for good cause, has not successfully completed the number of semester credit hours required under Subsection (a)(4) [~~(a)(3)~~]. The council may not admit to the program or select as a program alternate an undergraduate student who has successfully completed fewer than 18 semester credit hours.

SECTION 3. Subsection (b), Section 51.8265, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) An identified student who expresses an interest in participating in the program is entitled to the following assistance during the student's freshman year:

(1) regular meetings with a program faculty director or an academic or health professions advisor to monitor the student's academic progress and advise the student in academic course work and career choices; and

(2) tutoring in courses as necessary, to be paid with program funds.

SECTION 4. Subsection (a), Section 51.829, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Each participating medical school must enter into an agreement with the council under which the medical school agrees to:

(1) select a faculty member employed by the medical school to serve on the council;

(2) commit faculty and administrative resources to the program;

(3) set aside for participating students [~~or, if necessary, nontraditional students described by Section 51.831~~] at least 10 percent of the medical school's enrollment capacity for each entering class, except as provided by Subsection (b);

(4) admit participating students who are matched to the medical school under the program;

(5) provide internship programs for participating students who have been matched to or are required to participate in those programs as described by Section 51.824(c) and coordinate the administration of those programs with general academic teaching institutions or private or independent institutions of higher education as necessary;

(6) provide for participating students and program alternates any mentoring programs required by the council at the undergraduate level and coordinate the administration of those programs with general academic teaching institutions or private or independent institutions of higher education as necessary; and

(7) provide support services, including postbaccalaureate mentoring programs required by the council, to participating students [~~and, as applicable, nontraditional students described by Section 51.832~~] who enroll in the medical school.

SECTION 5. Section 51.830, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 51.830. COUNCIL AGREEMENT WITH GENERAL ACADEMIC TEACHING INSTITUTION. Each general academic teaching institution must enter into an agreement with the council under which the

institution agrees to:

(1) provide academic counseling to a participating student or program alternate enrolled at that institution;

(2) as soon as practicable, implement or expand appropriate degree programs as necessary to provide participating students with sufficient preparation for enrollment in participating medical schools; and

(3) select a faculty director or an academic or health professions advisor to assist in implementing the program at the institution and in implementing or expanding the institution's degree programs as necessary under Subdivision (2).

SECTION 6. Section 51.831, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 51.831. COUNCIL AGREEMENT WITH PRIVATE OR INDEPENDENT INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION. Each private or independent institution of higher education must enter into an agreement with the council under which the institution agrees to:

(1) provide academic counseling to a participating student or program alternate enrolled at the institution;

(2) as soon as practicable, implement or expand appropriate degree programs as necessary to provide participating students with sufficient preparation for enrollment in participating medical schools;

(3) select a faculty director or an academic or health professions advisor to assist in implementing the program at the institution and in implementing or expanding the institution's degree programs as necessary under Subdivision (2); and

(4) provide a scholarship to a participating student in the amount required for a participating student attending a general academic teaching institution, but not to exceed the amount of tuition and fees that the student is charged.

SECTION 7. Subsection (a), Section 51.833, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The council may accept a gift, grant, devise, or bequest of money, securities, service, or property to carry out any purpose of this subchapter, including funds raised or services provided by a volunteer or volunteer group to promote the work of the council. The council's administrative staff may participate in the establishment and operation of an affiliated nonprofit organization whose purpose is to raise funds for or provide services or other benefits to the council [~~solicit and accept gifts and grants from any public or private source for the purposes of this subchapter~~].

SECTION 8. Section 51.832, Education Code, is repealed.

SECTION 9. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to an application for admission to the Joint Admission Medical Program filed on or after the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 10. 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, 2007.