

- SUBJECT:** Codifying the statewide preceptorship program in family medicine
- COMMITTEE:** Higher Education — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — Lozano, Raney, Alonzo, Alvarado, Button, Howard, Morrison, Turner
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Clardy
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, April 3 — 31-0, on Local and Uncontested Calendar
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Sebastien Laroche, Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc.; Michelle Romero, Texas Medical Association; David Reynolds, Texas Osteopathic Medical Association)
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Rex Peebles, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board)
- BACKGROUND:** The statewide preceptorship program in family medicine, established in 1978, provides medical students with a stipend to work in family practice for one month to encourage them to pursue a career in primary care. The state's preceptorship programs for internal medicine and general pediatrics, created in 1995, were modeled after the one in family medicine.
- Education Code, sec. 58.006 allows the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to contract with organizations to operate the statewide preceptorship programs in general internal medicine and in general pediatrics for medical students enrolled in Texas medical schools. Students eligible to participate in the preceptorship programs must indicate an interest in a primary care career.

Observers note that family medicine is not mentioned in statute governing the statewide preceptorship programs, even though the coordinating board has included that specialty as part of the programs in the past.

DIGEST:

SB 491 would specify that the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board could contract with organizations to operate the statewide preceptorship program in family medicine for medical students enrolled in Texas medical schools.

This bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2017.