

SUBJECT: Including two medical schools in the Joint Admission Medical Program

COMMITTEE: Higher Education — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 9 ayes — C. Turner, Stucky, Frullo, Howard, Pacheco, Schaefer, Smithee, Walle, Wilson

0 nays

2 absent — Button, E. Johnson

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, April 11 — 31-0, on Local and Uncontested Calendar

WITNESSES: *On House companion bill, HB 2573:*
For — Ankita Brahmaroutu, Texas Medical Association; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Miriam Cepeda, City of Edinburg; Jesse Ozuna, Doctor's Hospital at Renaissance; Christine Yanas, Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc.; Carrie Kroll, Texas Hospital Association; Michelle Romero, Texas Medical Association)

Against — None

On — Stephen Smith, Dell Medical School at the University of Texas at Austin; Paul Hermesmeier, Joint Admission Medical Program; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Rex Peebles, Higher Education Coordinating Board)

BACKGROUND: Education Code sec. 51.822 governs the Joint Admission Medical Program, which is administered by the Joint Admission Medical Program Council to:

- provide services to support and encourage highly qualified, economically disadvantaged students pursuing a medical education;
- award undergraduate and graduate scholarships and summer stipends to such students; and

- guarantee the admission of these students to at least one participating medical school.

Education Code ch. 63, subch. A governs the Permanent Health Fund for Higher Education, a special fund in the treasury outside of the general revenue fund that distributes funds to certain medical programs for research, health education, and treatment programs.

DIGEST: CSSB 479 would add the Dell Medical School at the University of Texas at Austin and the School of Medicine at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley to the list of medical schools participating in the Joint Admission Medical Program.

As soon as practicable after the effective date of the bill, the schools would have to enter into the required agreements with the Joint Admission Medical Program Council and select appropriate faculty members to represent the schools on the council. The schools would provide internships and mentoring under the program by the 2020-2021 academic year, but would not be required to admit participating students to their medical schools under the program before the 2022-2023 academic year.

The bill also would add both schools to the list of medical and dental units subject to Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board oversight and make the Dell Medical School at the University of Texas at Austin eligible to receive funds from the Permanent Health Fund for Higher Education beginning in state fiscal year 2020.

The 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, 2019.

SUPPORTERS SAY: CSSB 479 would allow the Dell Medical School at the University of Texas at Austin and the School of Medicine at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, the state's newest public medical schools, to participate in the Joint Admission Medical Program. Every other public medical school in Texas participates in the program, which has proven to

be successful in helping Texans from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds become doctors, and so it is only appropriate that these two schools be added to the list of participants.

The bill also would update relevant sections of the Education Code to include these two schools and allow the Dell Medical School at the University of Texas at Austin to receive important funds from the Permanent Health Fund for Higher Education.

OPPONENTS
SAY:

No concerns identified.