

SUBJECT: Expanding THECB grants to apply to podiatry graduate medical programs

COMMITTEE: Higher Education — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 9 ayes — Murphy, Pacheco, Frullo, Muñoz, Ortega, Parker, Raney, C. Turner, J. Turner

0 nays

2 absent — Cortez, P. King

WITNESSES: For — Steve Brancheau, Texas Podiatric Medical Association; (*Registered, but did not testify*: William Yarnell, City of Harlingen; Jonathan Connors, DHRHealth; Logan Spence, Texas Podiatric Medical Association)

Against — None

On — Guy Bailey, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Hemant Makan, Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation)

BACKGROUND: Education Code ch. 58A.024 requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to award grants to new or existing graduate medical education programs to increase the number of first-year residency positions. Sec. 58A.001(5) defines a “graduate medical education program” as a nationally accredited post-doctor of medicine or post-doctor of osteopathic medicine program that prepares physicians for the independent practice of medicine in a specific specialty area.

Interested parties note that grants under the graduate medical education expansion program are restricted to programs for training medical doctors and osteopathic doctors and that programs for training individuals in the critical field of podiatry could benefit from these grants as well.

DIGEST: HB 2509 would expand the definition of a graduate medical education

program in Education Code ch. 58A to include a nationally accredited post-doctor of podiatric medicine program that prepared podiatrists for independent practice in the specialty area of podiatry.

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, 2021.