

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

H.B. 2421
By: Hawley (Madla)
Health & Human Services
5/9/2001
Engrossed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, rural communities are experiencing a shortage of health care providers. H.B. 2421 requires the Center for Rural Health Initiatives to establish a program to encourage students from rural areas to study medicine and return to the rural community to practice.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 106, Health and Safety Code, by adding Subchapter H, as follows:

SUBCHAPTER H. RURAL PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT PROGRAM

Sec. 106.251. DEFINITION. Defines “rural community.”

Sec. 106.252. GIFTS AND GRANTS. Authorizes the Center for Rural Health Initiatives (center) to accept gifts, grants, and donations to support the rural physician recruitment program (program).

Sec. 106.253. RURAL PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT PROGRAM. (a) Requires the center to develop a program to recruit students interested in studying medicine from rural communities and encourage them to enroll in medical school and to return to rural communities to practice medicine.

(b) Requires the center to: encourage high school and college students from rural communities to pursue a career in medicine; develop a screening process to identify rural students most likely to pursue a career in medicine; promote and sponsor rural electives in medical school curriculum; establish a mentoring program for rural students; provide rural students with information about financial aid resources available for postsecondary education; and establish a rural practice incentive program.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2001.