

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

H.B. 3469
By: McClendon (West, Royce)
Education
5/11/2001
Engrossed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, there is a shortage of physicians in the rural areas of Texas while the need for medical services in Texas is increasing. Almost 16 percent of the Texas population resides in rural areas of the state, and approximately 56,000 people live in counties without a primary care physician. There is approximately one primary care physician for every 700 people in the state, but in rural areas the ratio is approximately one physician for every 1,300 people. The establishment of a medical school at Prairie View A&M University could help to address this critical health need. H.B. 3469 establishes a medical school at Prairie View A&M University.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the board of regents of The Texas A&M University System in SECTION 1 (Section 87.842, Education Code) of this bill.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

H.B. 3469 amends the Education Code to require the board of regents (board) of The Texas A&M University System to establish and maintain the Prairie View A&M Medical School (medical school). The bill authorizes the board to prescribe courses leading to customary degrees offered in other leading American medical schools and to award those degrees. The bill authorizes the board to make rules and regulations for the operation, control, and management of the medical school. The bill authorizes the board to execute and carry out affiliation or coordinating agreements with any institution or entity and to make joint appointments to other institutions in The Texas A&M University System. The bill requires the board to develop a plan for establishing the school, take the necessary steps to establish the medical school not later than January 1, 2007, and begin admitting students to the medical school not later than the fall semester of 2008.

Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2001.