

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
77R7091 JSA-D

S.B. 1636  
By: Bernsen  
Education  
4/23/2001  
As Filed

### **DIGEST AND PURPOSE**

In 1998, the legislature created the State Physician Education Loan Repayment Program (PELRP) to help address the growing shortage of physicians practicing in rural and medically underserved areas by offering state funds to help participating physicians repay education loans. Despite PELRP's success in recruiting and retaining physicians to practice in rural and underserved areas, it is facing a possible funding shortfall due to factors including the overcommitment of funds and restrictions on how medical schools may set aside money for PELRP. As proposed, S.B. 1636 requires that a portion of the tuition of all medical school students be set aside for student loan repayment assistance for certain physicians and provides for the preparation of an annual report on PELRP.

### **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 Section 61.539, Education Code, to change a reference from "resident students" to "each student." Deletes a reference to Section 403.094(h), Government Code, and makes a conforming change. Adds Subsection (c) to set forth provisions relating to a report that the comptroller is required to prepare relating to the number of students registered in a medical branch, school, or college, and total amounts of tuition charges collected by each institution.

SECTION 2. Provides that the change in law made by this Act applies beginning with tuition fees charged to students registered in a medical branch, school, or college for the 2001-2002 academic year.

SECTION 3. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2001.