

SB 1247

Bill Number: TX79RSB 1247
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A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1- 1 relating to admission to the Joint Admission Medical Program.
1- 2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
1- 3 SECTION 1. Sections 51.824(b) and (c), Education Code, are
1- 4 amended to read as follows:
1- 5 (b) From each general academic teaching institution, the
1- 6 council annually shall select for admission to the program at least
1- 7 two eligible undergraduate students who are enrolled as sophomores
1- 8 [~~freshman~~] at that institution. The council shall allocate 10
1- 9 percent of the total program openings on a rotation basis to private
1-10 or independent institutions of higher education. The council shall
1-11 allocate the remaining program openings to general academic
1-12 teaching institutions as the council determines to be appropriate
1-13 [~~in proportion to the average size of each institution's entering~~]
1-14 [~~freshman class during the four-year period preceding the~~]
1-15 [~~allocation~~].
1-16 (c) The council shall match each participating student with
1-17 appropriate internship programs offered by participating medical
1-18 schools during the summers immediately following the student's
1-19 [~~freshman~~] sophomore[~~r~~] and junior years. A participating medical
1-20 school to which a participating student is matched under Subsection
1-21 (e) may require the student to participate in an internship program
1-22 offered by the medical school during the summer immediately
1-23 following the student's senior year.
2- 1 SECTION 2. Sections 51.826(a) and (c), Education Code, are
2- 2 amended to read as follows:
2- 3 (a) To be eligible for admission to the program or for
2- 4 selection as a program alternate, an undergraduate student must:
2- 5 (1) enroll at a general academic teaching institution
2- 6 or a private or independent institution of higher education not
2- 7 later than the first fall semester following the student's
2- 8 graduation from high school;
2- 9 (2) be a Texas resident for purposes of tuition under
2-10 Subchapter B, Chapter 54;
2-11 (3) except as provided by Subsection (c), successfully
2-12 complete at least 27 [~~15~~] semester credit hours during the [~~fall~~]
2-13 [~~semester of the~~] student's freshman year at the general academic
2-14 teaching institution or the private or independent institution of
2-15 higher education;
2-16 (4) apply for admission to the program not later than
2-17 September 1 of [~~at the beginning of~~] the fall [~~spring~~] semester of
2-18 the student's sophomore [~~freshman~~] year at the general academic
2-19 teaching institution or the private or independent institution of
2-20 higher education; and
2-21 (5) meet criteria established by the council
2-22 regarding:
2-23 (A) minimum high school and undergraduate grade
2-24 point averages;
2-25 (B) financial need and any other indication of
2-26 economic disadvantage; and
2-27 (C) any other matter the council considers
3- 1 appropriate.
3- 2 (c) The council shall adopt rules to admit to the program or
3- 3 to select as a program alternate an otherwise eligible
3- 4 undergraduate student who, for good cause, has not successfully
3- 5 completed the number of semester credit hours required under
3- 6 Subsection (a)(3). The council may not admit to the program or
3- 7 select as a program alternate an undergraduate student who has
3- 8 successfully completed fewer than 18 [~~nine~~] semester credit hours.
3- 9 SECTION 3. Subchapter V, Chapter 51, Education Code, is
3-10 amended by adding Section 51.8265 to read as follows:
3-11 Sec. 51.8265. PREADMISSION MENTORING AND ASSISTANCE.
3-12 (a) In order to maximize a student's potential for success in the
3-13 program, the council shall identify students who may be eligible to

3-14 participate in the program not later than the beginning of the first
3-15 fall semester following the student's graduation from high school.

3-16 (b) An identified student who expresses an interest in
3-17 participating in the program is entitled to the following
3-18 assistance during the student's freshman year:

3-19 (1) regular meetings with a program faculty director
3-20 to monitor the student's academic progress and advise the student
3-21 in academic course work and career choices; and

3-22 (2) tutoring in courses as necessary, to be paid with
3-23 program funds.

3-24 (c) A student who has applied for admission into the program
3-25 and who meets the eligibility criteria as provided by Section
3-26 51.826 is entitled to receive, during the fall semester of the
3-27 student's sophomore year, the assistance described by Subsection
4- 1 (b) and a scholarship in an amount determined by the council.

4- 2 SECTION 4. Section 51.827(a), Education Code, is amended to
4- 3 read as follows:

4- 4 (a) To be eligible to continue participation in the program,
4- 5 an undergraduate student who is admitted to the program must:

4- 6 (1) meet criteria established by the council
4- 7 regarding:

4- 8 (A) courses taken and minimum grade point average
4- 9 for those courses during enrollment at the general academic
4-10 teaching institution or the private or independent institution of
4-11 higher education;

4-12 (B) progress in those courses;

4-13 (C) achievement of an acceptable score on the
4-14 Medical College Admission Test or any equivalent examination taken
4-15 as a precondition for enrollment in or admission to a participating
4-16 medical school; and

4-17 (D) any other matter the council considers
4-18 appropriate;

4-19 (2) participate in:

4-20 (A) internship programs described by Section

4-21 51.824(c) in:

4-22 (i) the summers immediately following the
4-23 student's [~~freshman,~~] sophomore[~~,~~] and junior years; and

4-24 (ii) if required, the summer immediately
4-25 following the student's senior year; and

4-26 (B) any undergraduate or graduate mentoring
4-27 program required by the council; and

5- 1 (3) exhibit intelligence, integrity, and personal and
5- 2 emotional characteristics that are considered necessary for the
5- 3 student to become an effective physician.

5- 4 SECTION 5. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
5- 5 an application for admission to the Joint Admission Medical Program
5- 6 filed on or after the effective date of this Act.

5- 7 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
5- 8 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
5- 9 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
5-10 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
5-11 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.