

S.B. No. 940

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of the Joint Admission Medical Program to assist certain economically disadvantaged students in preparing for and succeeding in medical school.
BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1.

Chapter 51, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter V to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER V. JOINT ADMISSION MEDICAL PROGRAM

Sec. 51.821.

DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Council" means the Joint Admission Medical Program Council established under this subchapter.

(2) "General academic teaching institution" means a four-year general academic teaching institution as defined by Section 61.003.

(3) "Private or independent institution of higher education" means an institution as defined by Section 61.003(15) that grants baccalaureate degrees and offers a program in premedical education.

(4) "Participating medical school" means each of the following entities:

(A) the medical school at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston;

(B) the medical school at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas;

(C) the medical school at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio;

(D) the medical school at The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston;

(E) the medical school at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center;

(F) the Baylor College of Medicine;

(G) the college of osteopathic medicine at the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth; and

(H) the medical school at The Texas A&M University System Health Science Center.

(5) "Participating student" means an eligible undergraduate student who is admitted to the program and who maintains eligibility for continued participation in the program.

(6) "Program" means the Joint Admission Medical Program established under this subchapter.

Sec. 51.822.

JOINT ADMISSION MEDICAL PROGRAM. The Joint Admission Medical Program is a program administered by the Joint Admission Medical Program Council to:

(1) provide services to support and encourage highly qualified, economically disadvantaged students pursuing a medical education;

(2) award undergraduate and graduate scholarships and summer stipends to those students; and

(3) guarantee the admission of those students to at least one participating medical school, subject to the conditions under Section 51.827 and under other provisions of this subchapter.

Sec. 51.823

COMPOSITION OF COUNCIL

(a) The participating medical schools shall jointly establish the Joint Admission Medical Program Council consisting of one faculty member employed by and representing each of the participating medical schools.

(b) A person may not serve on the council for more than six consecutive years.

(c) The council shall select one of its members to serve as council chair for a term of two years.

Sec. 51.824

COUNCIL DUTIES

(a) The council shall:

(1) recruit eligible undergraduate students for admission to the program;

(2) establish an application process for admitting eligible undergraduate students to the program;

(3) evaluate applications for admission to the program according to the selection requirements of

Subsection (b);

(4) monitor the implementation of the program;

(5) assist in developing services to support and encourage the pursuit of a medical education by participating students and, as applicable, nontraditional students described by Section 51.832;

(6) establish a process for participating students to:

(A) be matched to an internship program as described by Subsection (c);

(B) be matched to any required undergraduate mentoring program as described by Subsection (d);

(C) apply for admission to participating medical schools;

(D) be matched to a participating medical school as described by Subsection (e); and

(E) enroll in that school;

(7) award to participating students undergraduate scholarships and summer stipends, including a

summer stipend for a student who is required to participate in an internship program in the summer immediately following the student's senior year;

(8) award graduate scholarships to participating students and, as applicable, nontraditional students described by Section 51.832;

(9) enter into an agreement with each student admitted to the program, each participating medical school, and each general academic teaching institution or private or

independent institution of higher education as required by this subchapter; and (10) take any other action necessary to implement the program.

(b) From each general academic teaching institution, the council annually shall select for admission to the program at least two eligible undergraduate students who are enrolled as freshmen at that institution. The council shall allocate 10 percent of the total program openings on a rotation basis to private or independent institutions of higher education. The council shall allocate the remaining program openings to general academic teaching institutions in proportion to the average size of each institution's entering freshman class during the four-year period preceding the allocation.

(c) The council shall match each participating student with appropriate internship programs offered by participating medical schools during the summers immediately following the student's freshman, sophomore, and junior years. A participating medical school to which a participating student is matched under Subsection (e) may require the student to participate in an internship program offered by the medical school during the summer immediately following the student's senior year.

(d) The council shall match each participating student with any appropriate undergraduate mentoring program required of the student by the council.

(e) During a participating student's senior year, the council shall match the student with an appropriate participating medical school as necessary to fill the percentage of enrollment capacity set aside by each medical school under the program. To the extent possible, the council shall accommodate the preferences of participating students regarding medical school placement. A participating medical school may not make an offer of admission to a participating student before the student is matched by the council to a medical school as described by this subsection.

Sec. 51.825

COUNCIL DELEGATION

The council may delegate the performance of the council's administrative functions, including its matching functions, to the Texas Medical and Dental Schools Application Service operated through The University of Texas System.

Sec. 51.826

ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION TO PROGRAM

(a) To be eligible for admission to the program, an undergraduate student must:

(1) enroll at a general academic teaching institution or a private or independent institution of higher education not later than the first fall semester following the student's graduation from high school;

(2) be a Texas resident for purposes of tuition under Subchapter B, Chapter 54;

(3) successfully complete at least 15 semester credit hours during the fall semester of the student's freshman year at the general academic teaching institution or the private or independent institution of higher education;

(4) apply for admission to the program at the beginning of the spring semester of the student's freshman year at the general academic teaching institution or the private or

independent institution of higher education; and

(5) meet criteria established by the council regarding:

(A) minimum high school and undergraduate grade point averages;

(B) financial need and any other indication of economic disadvantage; and

(C) any other matter the council considers appropriate.

(b) For purposes of Subsection (a)(2), a student is not a Texas resident as described by that subdivision solely because the student is eligible to pay tuition at the resident tuition rate.

Sec. 51.827

ELIGIBILITY TO CONTINUE PARTICIPATION IN PROGRAM

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

(1) meet criteria established by the council regarding:

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

(B) progress in those courses;

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

(D) any other matter the council considers appropriate;

(2) participate in:

(A) internship programs described by Section 51.824(c) in:

(i) the summers immediately following the student's freshman, sophomore, and junior years; and

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

(B) any undergraduate or graduate mentoring program required by the council; and

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

(b) If an undergraduate student who is admitted to the program fails to meet the requirements of Subsection (a) without good cause as determined by the council, the council may terminate that student's participation in the program at the end of the semester during which the student failed to meet the requirements of that subsection. A student's participation in the program is automatically terminated if the student fails to meet the requirements of Subsection (a) for two consecutive semesters without good cause.

Sec. 51.828

COUNCIL AGREEMENT WITH STUDENT ADMITTED TO PROGRAM

(a) A student admitted to the program must enter into an agreement with the council under which the student agrees to:

(1) maintain eligibility for continued participation in the program; and

(2) repay any scholarship or stipend received under the program if the student enrolls

in a public or private medical school in another state, other than temporary enrollment occurring as a result of an exchange program.

(b) At the time the student enters into an agreement under this section, the council shall provide the student with information regarding:

- (1) available program benefits, including undergraduate and graduate scholarships and summer stipends; and
- (2) repayment of scholarship and stipend benefits received under the program.

Sec. 51.829

COUNCIL AGREEMENT WITH PARTICIPATING MEDICAL SCHOOL

(a) Each participating medical school must enter into an agreement with the council under which the medical school agrees to:

- (1) select a faculty member employed by the medical school to serve on the council;
- (2) commit faculty and administrative resources to the program;
- (3) set aside for participating students or, if necessary, nontraditional students described by Section 51.831 at least 10 percent of the medical school's enrollment capacity for each entering class, except as provided by Subsection (b);
- (4) admit participating students who are matched to the medical school under the program;
- (5) provide internship programs for participating students who have been matched to or are required to participate in those programs as described by Section 51.824(c) and coordinate the administration of those programs with general academic teaching institutions or private or independent institutions of higher education as necessary;
- (6) provide for participating students any mentoring programs required by the council at the undergraduate level and coordinate the administration of those programs with general academic teaching institutions or private or independent institutions of higher education as necessary; and
- (7) provide support services, including post baccalaureate mentoring programs required by the council, to participating students and, as applicable, nontraditional students described by Section 51.832 who enroll in the medical school.

(b) The Baylor College of Medicine must agree under Subsection (a) to set aside under Subsection (a)(3) not less than 10 percent of its enrollment capacity set aside for students who are entitled to pay tuition at the rate provided by Chapter 54 for resident students.

Sec. 51.830

COUNCIL AGREEMENT WITH GENERAL ACADEMIC TEACHING INSTITUTION

Each general academic teaching institution must enter into an agreement with the council under which the institution agrees to:

- (1) provide academic counseling to a participating student enrolled at that institution;
- (2) as soon as practicable, implement or expand appropriate degree programs as necessary to provide participating students with sufficient preparation for enrollment in participating medical schools; and
- (3) select a faculty director to assist in implementing the program at the institution and in

implementing or expanding the institution's degree programs as necessary under Subdivision (2).

Sec. 51.831

COUNCIL AGREEMENT WITH PRIVATE OR INDEPENDENT INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Each private or independent institution of higher education must enter into an agreement with the council under which the institution agrees to:

- (1) provide academic counseling to a participating student enrolled at the institution;
- (2) as soon as practicable, implement or expand appropriate degree programs as necessary to provide participating students with sufficient preparation for enrollment in participating medical schools;
- (3) select a faculty director to assist in implementing the program at the institution and in implementing or expanding the institution's degree programs as necessary under Subdivision (2); and
- (4) provide a scholarship to a participating student in the amount required for a participating student attending a general academic teaching institution, but not to exceed the amount of tuition and fees that the student is charged.

Sec. 51.832

NONTRADITIONAL STUDENTS

(a) If for any reason a participating medical school does not fill the percentage of enrollment capacity set aside for participating students under the program, the medical school shall fill the remaining openings with economically disadvantaged students who:

- (1) are 25 years of age or older;
- (2) have been admitted to the medical school independently of the program;
- (3) are referred by the medical school to the council and admitted to the program by the council; and
- (4) are entitled to pay tuition at the rate provided by Chapter 54 for resident students.

(b) Nontraditional students admitted to the program under this section are subject only to the program benefits and requirements applicable to participating students after their enrollment in a participating medical school and must sign an agreement to that effect.

Sec. 51.833

FUNDING

(a) The council may solicit and accept gifts and grants from any public or private source for the purposes of this subchapter.

(b) The legislature may appropriate money for the purposes of this subchapter.

Sec. 51.834

REPORT

(a) The council shall deliver a report on the program to the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the House of Representatives not later than December 31 of

each even-numbered year.

(b) The report must contain detailed information regarding:

(1) any problems the council identifies in implementing the program, with recommended solutions for those problems;

(2) the expenditure of any money received under this subchapter, including legislative appropriations; and

(3) the number of students who are admitted to the program and who are enrolled in each year of a baccalaureate, graduate, or professional degree program offered by a general academic teaching institution, a private or independent institution of higher education, or a participating medical school, as applicable.

SECTION 2

The Joint Admission Medical Program Council is required to implement this Act only if the legislature appropriates money specifically for that purpose. If the legislature does not appropriate money specifically for that purpose, the council may, but is not required to, implement this Act using other appropriations available for the purpose.

SECTION 3

This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2001.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 940 passed the Senate on March 29, 2001, by the following vote: Yeas 27, Nays 2, one present, not voting.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 940 passed the House on May 16, 2001, by the following vote: Yeas 121, Nays 15, three present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor