

S.B. No. 1128

AN ACT

relating to the administration of the Joint Admission Medical Program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subdivision (5), Section 51.821, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(5) "Participating student" means an eligible undergraduate student who is admitted to the program and who maintains eligibility for continued participation in the program. The term does not include a program alternate who participates in mentoring activities and receives other related counseling services under the program.

SECTION 2. Subsections (a) and (d), Section 51.824, Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(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 procedures for selecting participating students under [selection requirements of] Subsection (b) and for selecting program alternates under Section 51.8245;
- (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, program alternates, 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 program alternate, 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.

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

SECTION 3. Subchapter V, Chapter 51, Education Code, as added by Chapter 605, Acts of the 77th Legislature, Regular Session, 2001, is amended by adding Sections 51.8245 and 51.8246 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.8245. PROGRAM ALTERNATES.

(a) The council shall establish procedures by which the council selects from the annual pool of applicants for the program an appropriate number of eligible undergraduate students to serve as program alternates until the beginning of their senior year. The council shall rank program alternates according to their qualifications for the program and, immediately on the termination of the participation of a student previously admitted to the program, shall select the highest ranking program alternate to be

a participating student under the program. The council may not select a program alternate to be a participating student after the first day of the fall semester of the alternate's senior year.

(b) The council shall establish procedures for program alternates to be matched to any required undergraduate mentoring program as described by Section 51.824(d). A program alternate selected under this section is limited to participating in mentoring activities and receiving other related counseling services under the program and must sign an agreement to that effect.

(c) The council shall adopt criteria for program alternates to maintain their eligibility as program alternates.

Sec. 51.8246. CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS AND PROCEEDINGS.

(a) Student education records created or considered under the program are confidential and may be released only in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C. Section 1232g).

(b) A meeting or portion of a meeting of the council at which the education records or other personal information of individual students or the evaluation, eligibility, admission, or selection of individual students are discussed is not open to the public under Chapter 551, Government Code.

SECTION 4. Section 51.826, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 51.826. ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION TO PROGRAM.

(a) To be eligible for admission to the program or for selection as a program alternate, 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) except as provided by Subsection (c), 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.

(c) The council shall adopt rules to admit to the program or to select as a program alternate an otherwise eligible undergraduate student who, for good cause, has not successfully completed the number of semester credit hours required under Subsection (a)(3). The council may not admit to the program or select as a program alternate an undergraduate student who has successfully completed fewer than nine semester credit hours.

SECTION 5. Subsection (a), Section 51.829, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(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 and program alternates 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 postbaccalaureate 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.

SECTION 6. Section 51.830, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

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 or program alternate 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).

SECTION 7. Section 51.831, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

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 or program alternate 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.

SECTION 8. (a) The change in law made by Subchapter V, Chapter 51, Education Code, as amended by this Act, applies only to an application for admission to the Joint Admission Medical Program filed on or after the effective date of this Act.

(b) The Joint Admission Medical Program Council shall establish procedures and adopt rules regarding the selection of program alternates and participating students as required by Subchapter V, Chapter 51, Education Code, as amended by this Act, not later than November 1, 2003.

SECTION 9. 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, 2003.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1128 passed the Senate on May 1, 2003, by the following vote:
Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1128 passed the House on May 28, 2003, by the following vote:
Yeas 144, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date