

SUBJECT: Including the Texas Tech medical school at El Paso in the JAMP

COMMITTEE: Higher Education — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — Branch, Alonzo, Berman, Cohen, D. Howard, McCall, Patrick, Rose

0 nays

1 absent — Castro

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, April 30 — 31-0, on Local and Uncontested Calendar

WITNESSES: (*On House companion bill, HB 4075:*)

For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Jennifer Banda, Texas Hospital Association; Michelle Romero, Texas Medical Association)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Paul Hermesmeyer, Joint Admission Medical Program - JAMP)

BACKGROUND: The Joint Admission Medical Program (JAMP) was created in 2001 to provide economically disadvantaged students who are interested in becoming physicians with the guidance and support they need to succeed. In addition, scholarships are available to each student from the time they are accepted in the JAMP program until they graduate from medical school, provided they maintain the necessary academic and personal requirements.

JAMP is funded through the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). It is a unique partnership between eight Texas medical schools and over sixty public and private four-year undergraduate universities. The program provides support through undergraduate and graduate scholarships and summer stipend scholarships; mentoring and personal assistance to prepare for medical school; hands-on experience through summer internships; and guaranteed admission to a Texas medical school if all requirements are met.

Students receive from pre-medical mentoring and counseling and Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) review and preparation. Their progress toward graduation is monitored to ensure completion of pre-medical and degree requirements within four years.

DIGEST: SB 201 would include the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Medical School at El Paso in the Joint Admission Medical Program. It would allow the medical school to select an appropriate faculty member to represent it on the JAMP council.

The medical school would provide internships and mentoring beginning with the 2011-2012 academic year. Students would not have to be admitted to the medical school under the program before the 2012-2013 school year.

This bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2009.

NOTES: The House companion bill, HB 4075 by Chavez, was reported favorably, as substituted, by the House Higher Education Committee on April 29.