

- SUBJECT:** Requiring public higher education institutions to submit plan to THECB
- COMMITTEE:** Higher Education — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — Lozano, Raney, Alonzo, Alvarado, Button, Howard, Morrison, Turner
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Clardy
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, April 3 — 31-0, on Local and Uncontested Calendar
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Gyl Switzer, Mental Health America of Texas; Sebastien Laroche, Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc.; Miranda Goodsheller, Texas Association of Business; Michelle Romero, Texas Medical Association; David Reynolds, Texas Osteopathic Medical Association)
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Rex Peebles, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board)
- BACKGROUND:** Education Code, sec. 61.0512 allows new degree or certificate programs to be added at a public higher education institution if the institution receives prior approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The institution must notify the coordinating board before it can carry out its preliminary planning for a new degree program. Sec. 58A.001 defines a graduate medical education program as a nationally accredited post-doctor of medicine (M.D.) or post-doctor of osteopathic medicine (D.O.) program that prepares doctors to practice medicine in a specialty area.
- Observers have noted some medical school graduates are forced to relocate to another state to complete their residencies due to a limited

number of in-state residency program options. Requiring a public higher education institution to submit a plan detailing how its proposed degree program will satisfy the state's increased demand for medical residency slots would help provide more opportunities for graduates to complete their training in Texas.

DIGEST:

CSSB 1066 would require a public institution of higher education to submit a plan specifying the addition of first-year residency positions for the graduate medical education program to be offered in connection with the institution's proposed new degree program.

The plan would have to propose an increase in the number of those first-year residency positions that, when combined with the total number of existing first-year residency positions in Texas, would be sufficient to reasonably accommodate the number of anticipated graduates from all of the state's M.D. or D.O. degree programs, including the institution's proposed degree program.

The plan also would have to provide adequate opportunity for those graduates to remain in Texas for the clinical portion of their education. The bill would make the submission of this plan a prerequisite for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's approval of the proposed degree program.

A resident engaged in graduate medical education in a public or nonprofit hospital in association with a medical and dental unit would be a state agency employee regardless of whether the resident received a stipend or other payment from the medical and dental unit for services performed as a resident.

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, 2017.