

SUBJECT: Adding two new medical schools to the Joint Admission Medical Program

COMMITTEE: Higher Education — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 6 ayes — Murphy, Ortega, Parker, Raney, C. Turner, J. Turner

0 nays

5 absent — Pacheco, Cortez, Frullo, P. King, Muñoz

WITNESSES: For — None

Against — None

On — Paul Hermesmeier and Matthew Meeks, Joint Admission Medical Program; Christopher Maynard, Sam Houston State University; Stephen Spann, University of Houston

BACKGROUND: Education Code ch. 51, subch. V establishes the Joint Admission Medical Program (JAMP), which provides services and financial support to highly qualified, economically disadvantaged students pursuing a medical education and guarantees admission of those students to at least one participating medical school if certain conditions are met. Sec. 51.829 describes the agreement that participating medical schools must enter into with the council that administers JAMP. The agreement requires each school to select a faculty member to serve on the council, admit participating students who are matched to the medical school under the program, and provide internship programs for participating students, among other requirements.

DIGEST: HB 1325 would add the medical school at the University of Houston and the college of osteopathic medicine at Sam Houston State University to medical schools participating in the Joint Admission Medical Program (JAMP).

The bill would require both medical schools to:

- enter into the requisite agreement with the JAMP Council and select an appropriate faculty member to represent their medical school on the council; and
- provide internships and mentoring under JAMP as appropriate by the 2022-2023 academic year.

Neither the University of Houston nor Sam Houston State would be required to admit students participating in JAMP to their medical schools before the 2023-2024 academic year.

The 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, 2021.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

HB 1325 would help aspiring medical students in Texas attend medical school by including the University of Houston College of Medicine and Sam Houston State University College of Osteopathic Medicine in the Joint Admission Medical Program (JAMP), which was established by the Legislature in 2001 to provide greater access to medical school for highly qualified, economically disadvantaged students across the state.

The addition of two newly formed medical schools would improve access to medical school for urban and underserved communities such as Houston and Huntsville, with the ultimate goal of providing better health care. Medical school is expensive and students must overcome many barriers to admission. These barriers have resulted in the underrepresentation of certain groups among medical students. By expanding JAMP to these two medical schools, the bill would enable disadvantaged students who wish to attend those institutions to receive essential support, including internships, test preparation for the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT), travel assistance, and tutoring.

CRITICS

No concerns identified.

SAY: