

1-1 By: Alonzo, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Zaffirini) H.B. No. 1427
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 10, 2007;
1-3 May 14, 2007, read first time and referred to Subcommittee on
1-4 Higher Education; May 18, 2007, reported favorably from Committee
1-5 on Education by the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; May 18, 2007,
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-8 AN ACT

1-9 relating to an optometry career program at the University of
1-10 Houston.

1-11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-12 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 111, Education Code, is
1-13 amended by adding Section 111.43 to read as follows:

1-14 Sec. 111.43. OPTOMETRY CAREER PROGRAM. (a) The college of
1-15 optometry at the university may operate a summer program that
1-16 prepares highly qualified, economically and academically
1-17 disadvantaged junior-level, senior-level, and postbaccalaureate
1-18 students from any public or private institution of higher education
1-19 for advanced studies and a career in the field of optometry. The
1-20 program may include:

1-21 (1) courses in improvement of study skills and
1-22 Optometry Admission Test preparation courses;

1-23 (2) a review of selected undergraduate academic
1-24 courses that are prerequisites for admission to advanced degree
1-25 programs in optometry;

1-26 (3) academic courses that are designed to familiarize
1-27 students with the course work in advanced degree programs in
1-28 optometry;

1-29 (4) clinical work; and

1-30 (5) extracurricular activities, including observing
1-31 professionals working in the field of optometry.

1-32 (b) To the extent practicable, and consistent with the
1-33 purposes of the program, the college of optometry shall operate the
1-34 program in a manner designed to assist students to obtain course
1-35 credit for the program from their respective institutions of higher
1-36 education.

1-37 (c) The college of optometry shall:

1-38 (1) recruit eligible undergraduate or
1-39 postbaccalaureate students for admission to the program;

1-40 (2) establish an application process for admitting
1-41 eligible undergraduate or postbaccalaureate students to the
1-42 program;

1-43 (3) develop reasonable requirements for admission to
1-44 the program;

1-45 (4) monitor the implementation of the program; and

1-46 (5) assist in developing services, including career
1-47 counseling, to support and encourage the pursuit of advanced
1-48 studies and careers in the field of optometry.

1-49 (d) The college of optometry may solicit and accept gifts
1-50 and grants from any public or private source for the purposes of
1-51 this section. The legislature may appropriate money for the
1-52 purposes of this section.

1-53 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
1-54 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
1-55 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
1-56 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
1-57 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

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