

1-1 By: Kolkhorst S.B. No. 2695
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 13, 2025; April 3, 2025, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Education K-16;
1-4 April 15, 2025, rereferred to Committee on Health & Human Services;
1-5 April 28, 2025, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
1-6 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 1; April 28, 2025,
1-7 sent to printer.)

1-8	COMMITTEE VOTE				
1-9		Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-10	Kolkhorst	X			
1-11	Perry	X			
1-12	Blanco		X		
1-13	Cook	X			
1-14	Hall	X			
1-15	Hancock	X			
1-16	Hughes	X			
1-17	Miles	X			
1-18	Sparks			X	

1-19 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 2695 By: Hancock

1-20 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-21 AN ACT

1-22 relating to an education program to enable certain students to
1-23 practice medicine in certain rural counties and to encourage
1-24 physician delegation of certain medical acts to advanced practice
1-25 registered nurses in certain rural counties.

1-26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-27 ARTICLE 1. SHORT TITLE

1-28 SECTION 1.001. This Act may be cited as the Texas Critically
1-29 Underserved Relief and Enhancement Act (Texas Cure Act).

1-30 ARTICLE 2. RURAL ADMISSION MEDICAL PROGRAM (RAMP)

1-31 SECTION 2.001. Chapter 51, Education Code, is amended by
1-32 adding Subchapter X to read as follows:

1-33 SUBCHAPTER X. RURAL ADMISSION MEDICAL PROGRAM

1-34 Sec. 51.851. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

1-35 (1) "Council" means the Rural Admission Medical
1-36 Program Council established under Section 51.853.

1-37 (2) "General academic teaching institution" and
1-38 "private or independent institution of higher education" have the
1-39 meanings assigned to those terms by Section 61.003.

1-40 (3) "Participating medical school" has the meaning
1-41 assigned by Section 51.821.

1-42 (4) "Participating student" means an eligible
1-43 undergraduate student who is admitted to the program and who
1-44 maintains eligibility for continued participation in the program.

1-45 (5) "Program" means the Rural Admission Medical
1-46 Program established under this subchapter.

1-47 Sec. 51.852. RURAL ADMISSION MEDICAL PROGRAM. The Rural
1-48 Admission Medical Program is a program administered by the Rural
1-49 Admission Medical Program Council to:

1-50 (1) provide services to support and encourage highly
1-51 qualified students from counties in this state with populations of
1-52 less than 25,000 who are pursuing a medical education;

1-53 (2) award undergraduate and graduate scholarships and
1-54 summer stipends to those students; and

1-55 (3) guarantee the admission of those students to at
1-56 least one participating medical school, subject to the conditions
1-57 under Section 51.827 and under other provisions of this subchapter.

1-58 Sec. 51.853. COMPOSITION OF COUNCIL. (a) The
1-59 participating medical schools shall jointly establish the Rural
1-60 Admission Medical Program Council consisting of one faculty member

employed by and representing each of the participating medical schools.

(b) The council shall select one of its members to serve as council chair for a term of two years.

Sec. 51.854. COUNCIL DUTIES. (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 the council establishes for selecting participating students;

(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 and, as applicable, nontraditional students described by Section 51.861;

(6) establish a process for participating students to:

(A) be matched to an internship program as described by Subsection (b);

(B) be matched to any required undergraduate mentoring program as described by Subsection (c);

(C) apply for admission to participating medical schools;

(D) be matched to a participating medical school as described by Subsection (d); 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 51.861;

(9) enter into an agreement with each student admitted to the program, 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.

(b) The council shall match each participating student with appropriate internship programs offered by participating medical schools during the summers immediately following the student's sophomore and junior years.

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

(d) During a participating student's senior year, the council shall match the student with an appropriate participating medical school as necessary to fill the percentage of enrollment capacity set aside by each medical school under the program.

Sec. 51.855. ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION TO PROGRAM. (a) To be eligible for admission to the program, an undergraduate student must:

(1) have enrolled 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 resident of this state for purposes of tuition under Subchapter B, Chapter 54;

(3) 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 not later than a date, as designated by the council, that occurs 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

3-1 (5) meet criteria established by the council
 3-2 regarding:
 3-3 (A) minimum high school and undergraduate grade
 3-4 point averages;
 3-5 (B) location in a county in this state with a
 3-6 population of less than 25,000; and
 3-7 (C) any other matter the council considers
 3-8 appropriate.
 3-9 (b) For purposes of Subsection (a)(2), a student is not a
 3-10 Texas resident as described by that subdivision solely because the
 3-11 student is eligible to pay tuition at the resident tuition rate.
 3-12 Sec. 51.856. ELIGIBILITY TO CONTINUE PARTICIPATION IN
 3-13 PROGRAM. (a) To be eligible to continue participation in the rural
 3-14 program, an undergraduate student who is admitted to the program
 3-15 must:
 3-16 (1) meet criteria established by the council
 3-17 regarding:
 3-18 (A) courses taken and the minimum grade point
 3-19 average for those courses during enrollment at the general academic
 3-20 teaching institution or the private or independent institution of
 3-21 higher education;
 3-22 (B) progress in those courses;
 3-23 (C) achievement of an acceptable score on the
 3-24 Medical College Admission Test or any equivalent examination taken
 3-25 as a precondition for enrollment in or admission to a participating
 3-26 medical school; and
 3-27 (D) any other matter the council considers
 3-28 appropriate;
 3-29 (2) participate in:
 3-30 (A) internship programs described by Section
 3-31 51.854(b) in:
 3-32 (i) the summers immediately following the
 3-33 student's freshman, sophomore, and junior years; and
 3-34 (ii) if required, the summer immediately
 3-35 following the student's senior year; and
 3-36 (B) any undergraduate or graduate mentoring
 3-37 program required by the council; and
 3-38 (3) exhibit intelligence, integrity, and personal and
 3-39 emotional characteristics that are considered necessary for the
 3-40 student to become an effective physician.
 3-41 (b) If an undergraduate student who is admitted to the
 3-42 program fails to meet the requirements of Subsection (a) without
 3-43 good cause as determined by the council, the council may terminate
 3-44 that student's participation in the program at the end of the
 3-45 semester during which the student failed to meet the requirements
 3-46 of that subsection. A student's participation in the program is
 3-47 automatically terminated if the student fails to meet the
 3-48 requirements of Subsection (a) for two consecutive semesters
 3-49 without good cause.
 3-50 Sec. 51.857. COUNCIL AGREEMENT WITH STUDENT ADMITTED TO
 3-51 PROGRAM. (a) A student admitted to the program must enter into an
 3-52 agreement with the council under which the student agrees to:
 3-53 (1) maintain eligibility for continued participation
 3-54 in the program; and
 3-55 (2) repay any scholarship or stipend received under
 3-56 the program if the student enrolls in a public or private medical
 3-57 school in another state, other than temporary enrollment occurring
 3-58 as a result of an exchange program.
 3-59 (b) At the time the student enters into an agreement under
 3-60 this section, the council shall provide the student with
 3-61 information regarding:
 3-62 (1) available program benefits, including
 3-63 undergraduate and graduate scholarships and summer stipends; and
 3-64 (2) repayment of scholarship and stipend benefits
 3-65 received under the program.
 3-66 Sec. 51.858. COUNCIL AGREEMENT WITH PARTICIPATING MEDICAL
 3-67 SCHOOL. (a) Each participating medical school must enter into an
 3-68 agreement with the council under which the medical school agrees
 3-69 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 51.861 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 51.854(b) 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 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 51.861 who enroll in the medical school.

(b) The Baylor College of Medicine must agree under Subsection (a) to set aside under Subsection (a)(3) not less than 10 percent of its enrollment capacity set aside for students who are entitled to pay tuition at the rate provided by Chapter 54 for resident students.

Sec. 51.859. 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 enrolled at that institution;

(2) as soon as practicable after entering into the agreement, 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 or an academic or health professions advisor to assist in implementing the program at the institution and in implementing or expanding the institution's degree programs as necessary under Subdivision (2).

Sec. 51.860. 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 enrolled at the institution;

(2) as soon as practicable after entering into the agreement, 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 or an academic or health professions advisor 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, in addition to any other scholarship money awarded to the student, a scholarship to a participating student in an amount equal to the amount awarded a participating student attending a general academic teaching institution, except that the amount of a scholarship award may not exceed the amount of tuition and fees that the student is charged.

Sec. 51.861. NONTRADITIONAL STUDENTS. (a) If for any reason a participating medical school does not fill the percentage of enrollment capacity set aside for participating students under the program, the medical school shall fill the remaining openings with economically disadvantaged students who:

(1) are 25 years of age or older;
 (2) have been admitted to the medical school independently of the program;
 (3) are referred by the medical school to the council and admitted to the program by the council; and
 (4) are entitled to pay tuition at the rate provided by Chapter 54 for resident students.

(b) A nontraditional student admitted to the program under this section is subject only to the program benefits and requirements applicable to a participating student after enrollment in a participating medical school. The nontraditional student shall sign an agreement to that effect.

Sec. 51.862. FUNDING. (a) The council may accept a gift, grant, devise, or bequest of money, securities, service, or property to carry out any purpose of this subchapter, including funds raised or services provided by a volunteer or volunteer group to promote the work of the council.

(b) The legislature may appropriate money for the purposes of this subchapter.

Sec. 51.863. REPORT. (a) The council shall deliver a report on the program to the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the house of representatives not later than December 31 of each even-numbered year.

(b) The report must contain detailed information regarding:
 (1) any problems the council identifies in implementing the rural program, with recommended solutions for those problems;

(2) the expenditure of any money received under this subchapter, including legislative appropriations; and

(3) the number of students who are admitted to the program and who are enrolled in each year of a baccalaureate, graduate, or professional degree program offered by a general academic teaching institution, a private or independent institution of higher education, or a participating medical school, as applicable.

ARTICLE 3. RURAL ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE DELEGATION PROGRAM

SECTION 3.001. Chapter 157, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Subchapter D to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER D. RURAL ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE DELEGATION PROGRAM

Sec. 157.151. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Advanced practice registered nurse" has the meaning assigned by Section 301.152. The term includes an advanced nurse practitioner and advanced practice nurse.

(2) "Delegation agreement" includes a prescriptive authority agreement under Subchapter B.

Sec. 157.152. RURAL ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE DELEGATION PROGRAM. (a) The board by rule shall establish a program under which the board contracts with or otherwise retains a physician to enter into a delegation agreement with an advanced practice registered nurse practicing:

(1) in primary care or mental health; and

(2) in a county with a population of 25,000 or less.

(b) A physician who participates in the program under this section is not required to be actively engaged in the practice of medicine.

(c) The board may remove from participation in the program established under this section a physician who does not enter into a sufficient number of delegation agreements with advanced practice registered nurses, as determined by the board.

Sec. 157.153. DELEGATION AGREEMENT FEE PROHIBITED. A physician may not charge a fee to an advanced practice registered nurse to enter into a delegation agreement under the program established under Section 157.152.

Sec. 157.154. NUMBER OF DELEGATION AGREEMENTS. Notwithstanding Section 157.0512(c), a physician may enter into delegation agreements under the program established under Section 157.152 with not more than 10 advanced practice registered nurses

or the full-time equivalent of 10 advanced practice registered nurses.

Sec. 157.155. RECORDS. The board shall:

(1) maintain records of the delegation agreements entered into under the program established under Section 157.152; and

(2) collect data on:

(A) delegation interactions under the program; and

(B) the impact the program has on access to health care.

Sec. 157.156. RULES. The board shall adopt rules as necessary to implement this subchapter.

ARTICLE 4. TRANSITION AND EFFECTIVE DATE

SECTION 4.001. Not later than February 1, 2026, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Texas Medical Board shall adopt rules necessary to implement the changes in law made by this Act.

SECTION 4.002. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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