

SUBJECT: Commissioned security force for Baylor Medical School

COMMITTEE: Public Safety — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — Oakley, Allen, Carter, Driver, Edwards, Luna, Madden, McCoulskey

0 nays

1 absent — Bailey

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, February 1 — 30-0

WITNESSES: For — Richard L. Balcom, Baylor University Medical Center

Against — None

BACKGROUND: Education Code sec. 51.212 allows the boards of private institutions of higher education to commission security officers.

Education Code sec. 51.214 allows private, nonprofit medical corporations in cities with populations of 1.2 million or more (Houston) to employ and commission security personnel as peace officers for institutions of higher education in a medical complex and its branches.

DIGEST: SB 238 would extend the medical-complex security provision in Education Code sec. 51.214 to include a private postsecondary educational institution in a city with a population of 1 million or more (Dallas and Houston).

SB 238 would take immediate effect if approved by two thirds of the membership of each house.

SUPPORTERS SAY: The 73rd Legislature, in amending Education Code definitions related to higher education in SB 163 by Carriker, inadvertently decommissioned the Baylor University Medical Center's Department of Public Safety. Baylor no longer meets the definition of a private institution of higher education in Education Code sec. 51.212. Since the center lost its statutory authority as an institution qualified to employ a security force, Baylor has used an

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emergency interim agreement with Dallas County to make Baylor's 47 officers deputy constables.

SB 238 would restore Baylor's authority to employ a law enforcement agency without disturbing the definitions changes enacted in the last session. Those changes, which generally had a positive effect, had an unintended negative effect on Baylor, which this bill would correct. The bill would only restore Baylor's authority to operate its security force and have no other effect.

OPPONENTS
SAY:

No apparent opposition.