

- SUBJECT:** Requiring a study of primary care physician shortages in Texas
- COMMITTEE:** Higher Education — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — C. Turner, Stucky, Button, Frullo, Howard, E. Johnson, Schaefer, Walle
- 0 nays
- 3 absent — Pacheco, Smithee, Wilson
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Christine Yanas, Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc.; Tom Banning, Texas Academy of Family Physicians; Ankita Brahmaroutu, Texas Medical Association)
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Rex Peebles, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board)
- BACKGROUND:** Some have suggested that Texas' shortage of primary care physicians should be studied so it can be properly understood and addressed.
- DIGEST:** HB 4003 would require the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to conduct a study regarding methods to mitigate or prevent a shortage in the number of practicing primary care physicians in Texas.
- The study would be required to analyze whether the number of physicians who practiced primary care in Texas would rise if graduate medical education programs were required or incentivized to increase the number of first-year residency positions leading to a medical specialty in family practice or primary care to 50 percent of all first-year residency positions.
- The study could analyze the feasibility of providing additional funding for rural and community-based medical residencies for family practice and

primary care positions, including by funding repayment of physicians' student loans.

By December 1, 2020, THECB would have to submit a report on the results of the study and any recommendations for legislative or other action to the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the House speaker.

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, 2019.