

**SUBJECT:** Authorizing certain joint graduate degree programs within the UT System

**COMMITTEE:** Higher Education — committee substitute recommended

**VOTE:** 10 ayes — Murphy, Pacheco, Cortez, Frullo, Muñoz, Ortega, Parker, Raney, C. Turner, J. Turner

0 nays

1 absent — P. King

**WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Georgia Keysor)

Against — None

On — Ernest Hawk, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center; Eric Boerwinkle, UTHealth Houston

**BACKGROUND:** Education Code sec. 73.102 states that if the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board determines that the role of The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center should be changed to include degree-granting authority, The University of Texas System board of regents may:

- prescribe courses and conduct allied health professional degree programs related to the purposes of the institution; and
- jointly prescribe courses and jointly conduct graduate programs at the master's and doctoral levels with The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

Degree programs offered under these provisions are subject to approval by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Some have called for the authorized partnership between The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston to be expanded to allow them to jointly

offer degree programs in the fields of population and public health.

DIGEST:

CSHB 1457 would allow The University of Texas System board of regents to prescribe courses and conduct certain graduate programs at The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center jointly with The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, with respect to graduate programs separately established at the health science center and related to the broad fields encompassed in population and public health.

This 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.