

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

C.S.S.B. 1636

By: Bernsen

Education

4/26/2001

Committee Report (Substituted)

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

In 1998, the legislature created the State Physician Education Loan Repayment Program (PELRP) to help address the growing shortage of physicians practicing in rural and medically underserved areas by offering state funds to help participating physicians repay education loans. Despite PELRP's success in recruiting and retaining physicians to practice in rural and underserved areas, it is facing a possible funding shortfall due to factors including the overcommitment of funds and restrictions on how medical schools may set aside money for PELRP. C.S.S.B. 1636 requires that a portion of the tuition of all medical school students be set aside for student loan repayment assistance for certain physicians and provides for the preparation of an annual report on PELRP.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 61.539, Education Code, to change a reference from "resident students" to "each student." Deletes a reference to Section 403.094(h), Government Code, and makes a conforming change. Adds Subsection (c) to set forth provisions relating to a report that the comptroller is required to prepare relating to the number of students registered in a medical branch, school, or college, and total amounts of tuition charges collected by each institution.

SECTION 2. Provides that the change in law made by this Act applies beginning with tuition fees charged to students registered in a medical branch, school, or college for the 2001-2002 academic year.

SECTION 3. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2001.

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE CHANGES

Differs from original in SECTION 1 by adding language to require the comptroller to also deliver a copy of the report to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board not later than January 1 following the end of the fiscal year covered by the report.