

Date of Hearing: April 24, 2018

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Jose Medina, Chair

AB 2597 (Arambula) – As Amended March 23, 2018

SUBJECT: Programs in Medical Education.

SUMMARY: Appropriates \$9,350,000 from the General Fund (GF) to the University of California (UC) Regents for allocation to the UC to support Programs in Medical Education (PRIME), and requires the UC, as a condition of receiving the funds, to expand enrollment of full-time students in PRIME by certain percentages by specified academic years. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Appropriates \$9,350,000 from the GF to the UC Regents for allocation to the UC to support PRIME.
- 2) Requires UC, as a condition of receipt of the appropriation in (1), to fully fund, at a minimum, the 2018–19 level of full-time student enrollment in PRIME for the 2019–20 academic year.
- 3) Requires the UC, as a condition of receipt of the moneys, to expand enrollment of full-time students in PRIME in subsequent years, upon appropriation by the Legislature, as follows:
 - a) By 25 percent for the 2020–21 academic year;
 - b) By 50 percent for the 2021–22 academic year; and,
 - c) By 100 percent for the 2022–23 academic year.
- 4) Requires PRIME enrollment for the 2018-19 academic year to be the baseline from which the UC increases PRIME enrollment, as outlined in (3)(a-c).

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Establishes the UC, a public trust to be administered by the Regents of the UC and grants the Regents full powers of organization and government, subject only to such legislative control as may be necessary to insure security of its funds, compliance with the terms of its endowments, statutory requirements around competitive bidding and contracts, sales of property and the purchase of materials, goods and services (Article IX, Section (9)(a) of the California Constitution).
- 2) Grants the UC Regents regulatory authority over the UC (Education Code Section 92440, et seq.).

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown. However, at least \$9,350,000 from the GF to support the program outlined in this bill.

COMMENTS: *Background on PRIME.* In January 2007, the UC system completed a multiyear comprehensive health sciences planning effort. The plan calls for the development of new

programs that will increase enrollment. The first phase of the growth has been underway for the last several years at UC medical schools through PRIME.

UC PRIME is an innovative training program focused on meeting the needs of California's underserved populations in both rural communities and urban areas by combining specialized coursework, structured clinical experiences, advanced independent study, and mentoring. The activities are organized and structured to prepare highly motivated, socially conscious students as future clinicians, leaders, and policy makers. Each new program has an area of focus that is selected based upon faculty expertise, the populations served by each school and its medical center, and other local considerations. Each program continues to develop and improve its guidelines for admission and recruitment of students.

Focusing on the growing needs of California's Latino communities, UC Irvine launched the first UC PRIME program in 2004 and graduated its first class in 2009.

Three other UC Schools (Davis, San Diego, and San Francisco) admitted their first classes in fall 2007. UC Los Angeles launched its PRIME program, in coordination with its partners UC Riverside and the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, in 2008.

A sixth PRIME program opened at UC Merced in 2011, in partnership with UC Davis and UC San Francisco. UC Merced's PRIME program focuses on the health needs of the San Joaquin Valley (SJV).

To note, according to the UC, systemwide, 361 students were enrolled in PRIME programs during the 2017-18 academic year. The table below shows the enrollment breakdown by each campus or entity with PRIME programs:

Location	Number of PRIME Students Enrolled
UC Davis	38
UC Irvine	63
UCLA	97
UC San Diego	53
UCSF	75
SJV	35

How many PRIME students are funded by California and how many more could be added with additional funding? According to the UC, of the 361 students enrolled in PRIME, 113 students (or approximately 31 percent) are funded by the state.

The UC contends that by utilizing the current estimated marginal cost support of approximately \$35,000 per UC medical student (which does not fully cover the cost per student), an estimated \$9,350,000 would be needed to fully fund PRIME at the size and enrollment levels originally planned (393 systemwide) in 2004.

To note, Committee Staff understands that with full funding, 32 more PRIME slots could be added; all schools have the space and infrastructure necessary to increase enrollments to planned levels.

Evaluation of new programs. Prior to 2011, the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) was charged with reviewing and making recommendations regarding proposals for new programs at California's public colleges and universities. Specifically, CPEC's review was intended to determine whether the costs of a program are justified by societal need and student demand for that program. Since the de-funding of CPEC in 2011, no additional state program reviews have occurred. The Legislature is now placed in the position of examining and reviewing the academic, programmatic, and fiscal implications of new programs.

Purpose of this measure. According to the author, "Rural residents often experience barriers to healthcare that limit their ability to get the care they need. Physician shortages will only increase as the Valley's diverse population continues to grow and age and existing physicians retire".

The author contends that the PRIME program is not fully funded; more spots are needed in the PRIME program in order to address the growing demand for physicians.

This measure appropriates \$9,350,000 from the GF to the UC Regents for allocation to the UC to support PRIME. Additionally, this measure specifies, the UC, as a condition of receiving the funds, to expand enrollment of full-time students in PRIME by certain percentages by specified academic years.

Prior legislation. AB 133 (Assembly Committee on Budget), Chapter 2, Statutes of 2016, amended the Budget Act of 2015, provided \$1.9 million to expand total enrollment in the SJV PRIME program to 48 students (12 students per year across the four-year curriculum).

AB 174 (Gray) of 2015, which was held on the Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File, would, in part, make an annual GF appropriation of \$1.255 million to UC to support the expansion of UC Merced's SJV PRIME.

SB 131 (Cannella) of 2015, which was held on the Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File, would, in part, commencing with the 2016-17 fiscal year, appropriate \$1.86 million GF annually to the UC Regents to support the expansion of the SJV PRIME.

SB 841 (Cannella) of 2014, which was held on the Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File, was substantially similar to SB 131 (as described above).

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

American Federation of State, County and Municipal employees, AFL-CIO
Association of California Healthcare Districts
California Academy of Family Physicians
California Health+ Advocates
Union of American Physicians and Dentists (Sponsor)

Opposition

None on file.

Analysis Prepared by: Jeanice Warden / HIGHER ED. / (916) 319-3960