

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 29, 2015

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 131**

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**Introduced by Senator Cannella**  
**(Principal coauthor: Senator Galgiani)**  
(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Gray and Olsen)

January 22, 2015

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An act relating to the University of California, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 131, as amended, Cannella. University of California: medical education.

Existing provisions of the California Constitution establish the University of California as a public trust under the administration of the Regents of the University of California. The University of California system includes 10 campuses, which are located in Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Merced, Riverside, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, and Santa Cruz.

This bill would express findings and declarations of the Legislature relating to the role of the University of California with respect to access to health care in the San Joaquin Valley.

The bill would appropriate \$1,855,000 from the General Fund to the regents each fiscal year, commencing with the 2016–17 fiscal year, for allocation to the University of California to support expansion of the San Joaquin Valley Program in Medical Education, as specified.

Vote:  $\frac{2}{3}$ . Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
2 following:

3 (a) The federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act  
4 (*Public Law 111-148*) provides millions of previously uninsured  
5 Californians access to health services, including physician care.  
6 As a result of this additional demand for physician services,  
7 California's projected statewide physician shortfall is 17,000 by  
8 2015.

9 (b) The San Joaquin Valley, which runs from Stockton to  
10 Bakersfield, is rich in cultural diversity and is the nation's leading  
11 agricultural region. However, the valley is disproportionately  
12 affected by the state's physician shortage, which is expected to  
13 intensify in the years ahead given the high rate of population  
14 growth in the area. Access to health care is 31 percent lower in the  
15 San Joaquin Valley than in the rest of California.

16 (c) Several regions of the San Joaquin Valley are federally  
17 designated ~~Medically Underserved Areas~~ *medically underserved*  
18 *areas* (MUAs). The calculation of MUAs involves four variables:  
19 ratio of primary medical care physicians per 1,000 population,  
20 infant mortality rate, percentage of the population with incomes  
21 below the poverty level, and percentage of the population 65 years  
22 of age or over.

23 (d) UC Merced's San Joaquin Valley Program in Medical  
24 Education (PRIME) is providing a key interim resource for training  
25 valley health care providers. This program accomplishes all of the  
26 following:

27 (1) Strengthens the desire for new physicians to practice in the  
28 San Joaquin Valley, which is one of California's most medically  
29 underserved areas.

30 (2) Reduces health disparities and inequalities in the San Joaquin  
31 Valley.

32 (3) Forms lasting relationships between the program and  
33 communities, hospitals, clinics, and physicians to enhance health  
34 care in the region.

35 (e) Students who take part in PRIME benefit from firsthand  
36 experience with interdisciplinary health care by providing care in  
37 medically underserved communities, working with patients and  
38 families from culturally diverse backgrounds, and developing a

1 true understanding of the issues and conditions that impact access  
2 to and quality of health care in the region.

3 (f) Despite its numerous benefits for its region, PRIME lacks  
4 an ongoing source of funding for its current enrollment as well as  
5 the financial resources to expand capacity to meet the needs of the  
6 valley.

7 (g) Given the San Joaquin Valley’s health care needs, it is  
8 essential for the State of California to continue developing the  
9 valley’s health care resources by sustaining the current PRIME  
10 enrollment and expanding that program’s capacity.

11 SEC. 2. The sum of one million eight hundred fifty-five  
12 thousand dollars (\$1,855,000) is hereby appropriated from the  
13 General Fund to the Regents of the University of California each  
14 fiscal year, commencing with the 2016–17 fiscal year, for  
15 allocation to the University of California to support expansion of  
16 the San Joaquin Valley ~~PRIME program~~ *Program in Medical*  
17 *Education* to admit up to 12 students per year and operate the  
18 program with up to 48 student participants from across the  
19 four-year curriculum annually.