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## Higher Education Committee

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### HB 1446

**Brief Description:** Requiring the higher education coordinating board to develop a grant program to encourage training for students studying in the medical field to work with individuals with disabilities.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Williams, Goodman, Roach and Conway.

#### Brief Summary of Bill

- Directs the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB), subject to appropriation of funds for this purpose, to develop a grant program for training projects at institutions of higher education that focus on improving services to individuals with developmental disabilities.
- Requires the HECB to consult with the Department of Health in administering the program and to report to the Legislature regarding grants awarded and progress in related areas.

**Hearing Date:** 2/4/09

**Staff:** Cece Clynch (786-7195)

#### Background:

Some research has indicated that people with developmental disabilities have greater difficulty accessing health care that meets their unique needs. A 2005 report by Special Olympics, Inc. concluded that physicians, dentists, and other health professionals do not receive adequate training to treat individuals with developmental disabilities. Within the last few years, reports from the Surgeon General of the United States have also found a need to increase training among health care professionals to address the unique needs of individuals with disabilities.

#### Summary of Bill:

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

Subject to the appropriation of funds for the purpose, the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) shall develop a centralized grant program for institutions of higher education to develop training projects aimed at improving the provision of medical services to adult individuals with developmental disabilities. The HECB shall administer the grant program in consultation with the Department of Health. By December 1, 2010, the HECB must report to the appropriate committees of the Legislature regarding grants awarded. The HECB must also report on any other efforts or progress in expanding or improving training with respect to the provision of medical services to adult individuals with developmental disabilities.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.