

By: McClendon

H.B. No. 27

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the automatic admission to public institutions of
3 higher education of certain undergraduate transfer students.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Section 51.801, Education Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 Sec. 51.801. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter, "general
8 academic teaching institution," "governing board," "medical and
9 dental unit," "public junior college," "public technical
10 institute," and "university system" have the meanings assigned by
11 Section 61.003.

12 SECTION 2. Subchapter U, Chapter 51, Education Code, is
13 amended by adding Section 51.8065 to read as follows:

14 Sec. 51.8065. AUTOMATIC ADMISSION: UNDERGRADUATE TRANSFER
15 STUDENTS HOLDING ASSOCIATE DEGREES OR CERTIFICATES. (a) In this
16 section, "public upper-level institution of higher education"
17 means an institution of higher education that offers only
18 junior-level and senior-level courses or only junior-level,
19 senior-level, and graduate-level courses.

20 (b) Except as provided by Subsection (g), each general
21 academic teaching institution shall admit an applicant for
22 admission to the institution as an undergraduate transfer student
23 if in the year preceding the academic year for which the applicant
24 is applying for admission under this section the applicant:

1 (1) received a degree or certificate from a public
2 junior college or public technical institute in a program requiring
3 at least 42 semester credit hours in the core curriculum; and

4 (2) completed the degree or certificate program with a
5 cumulative grade point average of at least a 3.0 on a four-point
6 scale or the equivalent.

7 (c) To qualify for admission under this section, an
8 applicant must submit an application before the expiration of any
9 application filing deadline established by the institution.

10 (d) After admitting an applicant under this section, the
11 institution may review the applicant's record and any other factor
12 the institution considers appropriate to determine whether the
13 applicant may require additional preparation for college-level
14 work or would benefit from inclusion in a retention program. The
15 institution may require a student so identified to enroll during
16 the summer immediately after the student is admitted under this
17 section to participate in appropriate enrichment courses and
18 orientation programs. This section does not prohibit a student who
19 is not determined to need additional preparation for college-level
20 work from enrolling, if the student chooses, during the summer
21 immediately after the student is admitted under this section.

22 (e) Admission to a specific general academic teaching
23 institution is contingent on the availability of space within the
24 institution for the admission of additional students.

25 (f) Admissions to a particular program or school within a
26 general academic teaching institution are based solely on the
27 requirements of the institution.

1 (g) This section does not apply to admission to:

2 (1) a public upper-level institution of higher
3 education; or

4 (2) any other general academic teaching institution
5 if, with respect to the academic year for which an undergraduate
6 transfer student has applied for admission, the institution has
7 filled through automatic admission as required by the other
8 provisions of this subchapter at least 50 percent of the spaces
9 available for entering undergraduate students at the institution.

10 SECTION 3. (a) This Act takes effect November 1, 2003, and
11 applies beginning with admissions for the 2004 fall semester.

12 (b) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the
13 governing board of each general academic teaching institution shall
14 adopt rules or policies relating to the admission of students under
15 Section 51.8065, Education Code, as added by this Act, not later
16 than February 1, 2004.