

By: Noriega

H.B. No. 74

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to eligibility to receive a TEXAS grant.

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

SECTION 1. Section 56.304(e), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(e) A person's eligibility for a TEXAS grant ends on the sixth anniversary of the initial award of a TEXAS grant to the person ~~[and the person's enrollment in an eligible institution]~~, unless the person is provided additional time during which the person may receive a TEXAS grant under this subsection. The coordinating board shall adopt rules to provide a person who is otherwise eligible to receive a TEXAS grant additional time during which the person may receive a TEXAS grant in the event of a hardship or other good cause shown that prevents the person from continuing the person's enrollment during the period the person would otherwise have been eligible to receive a TEXAS grant, including a showing of a severe illness or other debilitating condition or that the person is or was responsible for the care of a sick, injured, or needy person.

SECTION 2. Subchapter M, Chapter 56, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 56.3042 to read as follows:

Sec. 56.3042. EXTENSION OF INITIAL ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANT.
A student enrolled at an eligible institution who does not meet the requirements of Section 56.304(a)(5) but who otherwise qualifies

1 for a grant under that section is eligible to receive an initial
2 TEXAS grant if, as determined by the coordinating board, the
3 student:

4 (1) previously applied for and was eligible to receive
5 an initial TEXAS grant under Section 56.304 on enrollment at an
6 eligible institution but did not receive an initial grant solely
7 because of insufficient funding for the grant program; and

8 (2) is enrolled for at least three-fourths of a full
9 course load for an undergraduate student.

10 SECTION 3. Section 56.305(a), Education Code, is amended to
11 read as follows:

12 (a) After initially qualifying for and receiving a TEXAS
13 grant, a person may continue to receive a TEXAS grant during each
14 semester or term in which the person is enrolled at an eligible
15 institution only if the person:

16 (1) meets financial need requirements as defined by
17 the coordinating board;

18 (2) is enrolled in an undergraduate degree or
19 certificate program at an eligible institution;

20 (3) is enrolled for at least three-fourths of a full
21 course load for an undergraduate student, as determined by the
22 coordinating board;

23 (4) makes satisfactory academic progress toward an
24 undergraduate degree or certificate; and

25 (5) complies with any additional nonacademic
26 requirement adopted by the coordinating board.

27 SECTION 4. The change in law made by this Act relating to

1 the eligibility of a person to receive a TEXAS grant applies
2 beginning with TEXAS grants awarded for the 2004-2005 academic
3 year. The eligibility of a person to receive a TEXAS grant for an
4 academic year before the 2004-2005 academic year is governed by the
5 applicable law in effect immediately before the effective date of
6 this Act, and the former law is continued in effect for that
7 purpose.

8 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect February 1, 2004.