

By: Wilson

H.B. No. 484

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to automatic admission to graduate or professional degree
3 programs at institutions of higher education.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter U, Chapter 51, Education Code, is
6 amended by adding Section 51.810 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 51.810. AUTOMATIC ADMISSION: GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL
8 DEGREE PROGRAMS. (a) Each institution of higher education, as
9 defined by Section 61.003, that offers a graduate or professional
10 degree program shall admit to the degree program an applicant for
11 admission to the program if the applicant graduates from an
12 institution of higher education with a bachelor's degree and with a
13 grade point average in the top 10 percent of the applicant's
14 graduating class.

15 (b) If the number of applicants entitled to automatic
16 admission under Subsection (a) seeking admission to a graduate or
17 professional degree program at an institution of higher education
18 exceeds the available number of spaces offered for enrollment in
19 the degree program for any semester:

20 (1) the institution shall conduct a lottery to award
21 the spaces to eligible applicants; and

22 (2) an eligible applicant not selected for admission
23 may delay the applicant's admission to the institution until space
24 is available.

1 (c) For purposes of this section, it is presumed that an
2 undergraduate student with a grade point average in the top 10
3 percent of the student's class at the beginning of a semester in
4 which the student is entitled to graduate will graduate with a grade
5 point average in the top 10 percent of the student's graduating
6 class. If the student does not graduate at the end of that
7 semester, or fails to graduate with a grade point average in the top
8 10 percent of the student's graduating class, the institution of
9 higher education that has admitted the student to a graduate or
10 professional degree program under this section may, but is not
11 required to, withdraw an offer of admission to the student, even if
12 the student has accepted the offer. An offer of admission to a
13 student to whom the presumption applies must indicate whether the
14 offer may be withdrawn under this subsection and that the student's
15 acceptance of the offer is conditioned on the student graduating at
16 the end of that semester as required by Subsection (a).

17 SECTION 2. (a) The change in law made by this Act applies
18 beginning with admissions for the 2004 fall semester.

19 (b) Each institution of higher education shall adopt
20 policies relating to the admission of students under Section
21 51.810, Education Code, as added by this Act, not later than January
22 1, 2004.

23 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
24 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
25 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
26 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
27 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.