

By: Van Arsdale

H.B. No. 693

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the authority of a school district to reject the application of a student under the public education grant program.

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

SECTION 1. Section 29.203(d), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(d) A school district chosen by a student's parent under Section 29.201 may ~~[is entitled to accept or]~~ reject the application for the student to attend school in that district only if the district does not have a position available for the student ~~[but may not use criteria that discriminate on the basis of a student's race, ethnicity, academic achievement, athletic abilities, language proficiency, sex, or socioeconomic status]~~. A ~~[school]~~ district that has more ~~[acceptable]~~ applicants for attendance under this subchapter than available positions must give priority to students at risk of dropping out of school as defined by Section 29.081 and must fill the available positions by lottery. However, to achieve continuity in education, a ~~[school]~~ district may give preference over at-risk students to enrolled students and to the siblings of enrolled students residing in the same household or other children residing in the same household as enrolled students for the convenience of parents, guardians, or custodians of those children. A district may not discriminate under this subsection on the basis of a student's race, ethnicity, academic

1 achievement, athletic abilities, language proficiency, or
2 socioeconomic status.

3 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2003-2004
4 school year.

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