

AN ACT

relating to the admission to public institutions of higher education of students with nontraditional secondary educations.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 51.9241 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.9241. ADMISSION OF STUDENT WITH NONTRADITIONAL SECONDARY EDUCATION. (a) In this section:

(1) "Institution of higher education" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

(2) "Nontraditional secondary education" means a course of study at the secondary school level in a nonaccredited private school setting, including a home school.

(b) Because the State of Texas considers successful completion of a nontraditional secondary education to be equivalent to graduation from a public high school, an institution of higher education must treat an applicant for admission to the institution as an undergraduate student who presents evidence that the person has successfully completed a nontraditional secondary education according to the same general standards as other applicants for undergraduate admission who have graduated from a public high school.

(c) An institution of higher education may not require an applicant for admission to the institution as an undergraduate

1 student who presents evidence that the person has successfully  
2 completed a nontraditional secondary education to:

3 (1) obtain or submit evidence that the person has  
4 obtained a general education development certificate, certificate  
5 of high school equivalency, or other credentials equivalent to a  
6 public high school degree; or

7 (2) take an examination or comply with any other  
8 application or admission requirement not generally applicable to  
9 other applicants for undergraduate admission to the institution.

10 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003, and  
11 applies only to undergraduate admissions to an institution of  
12 higher education for a term or semester that begins on or after that  
13 date. Undergraduate admissions for a term or semester that begins  
14 before the effective date are covered by the law in effect  
15 immediately before that date, and the former law is continued in  
16 effect for that purpose.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 944 was passed by the House on April 14, 2003, by a non-record vote; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 944 on May 30, 2003, by a non-record vote.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 944 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 28, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor