

1-1 By: King, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Estes) H.B. No. 944
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 14, 2003;
1-3 April 22, 2003, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 Education; May 22, 2003, reported adversely, with favorable
1-5 Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0;
1-6 May 22, 2003, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 944 By: Van de Putte

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to the admission to public institutions of higher
1-11 education of students with nontraditional secondary educations.

1-12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-13 SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is
1-14 amended by adding Section 51.9241 to read as follows:

1-15 Sec. 51.9241. ADMISSION OF STUDENT WITH NONTRADITIONAL
1-16 SECONDARY EDUCATION. (a) In this section:

1-17 (1) "Institution of higher education" has the meaning
1-18 assigned by Section 61.003.

1-19 (2) "Nontraditional secondary education" means a
1-20 course of study at the secondary school level in a nonaccredited
1-21 private school setting, including a home school.

1-22 (b) Because the State of Texas considers successful
1-23 completion of a nontraditional secondary education to be equivalent
1-24 to graduation from a public high school, an institution of higher
1-25 education must treat an applicant for admission to the institution
1-26 as an undergraduate student who presents evidence that the person
1-27 has successfully completed a nontraditional secondary education
1-28 according to the same general standards as other applicants for
1-29 undergraduate admission who have graduated from a public high
1-30 school.

1-31 (c) An institution of higher education may not require an
1-32 applicant for admission to the institution as an undergraduate
1-33 student who presents evidence that the person has successfully
1-34 completed a nontraditional secondary education to:

1-35 (1) obtain or submit evidence that the person has
1-36 obtained a general education development certificate, certificate
1-37 of high school equivalency, or other credentials equivalent to a
1-38 public high school degree; or

1-39 (2) take an examination or comply with any other
1-40 application or admission requirement not generally applicable to
1-41 other applicants for undergraduate admission to the institution.

1-42 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003, and
1-43 applies only to undergraduate admissions to an institution of
1-44 higher education for a term or semester that begins on or after that
1-45 date. Undergraduate admissions for a term or semester that begins
1-46 before the effective date are covered by the law in effect
1-47 immediately before that date, and the former law is continued in
1-48 effect for that purpose.

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