

By: Wise

H.B. No. 1761

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to administration of and eligibility for TEXAS grants and
3 TEXAS grants II.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 56.305(e), Education Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (e) For the purpose of this section, a person makes
8 satisfactory academic progress toward an undergraduate degree or
9 certificate ~~[only]~~ if ~~[+~~

10 ~~[(1) in the person's first academic year]~~ the person
11 meets the satisfactory academic progress requirements to qualify
12 for federal student financial aid at ~~[of]~~ the institution in ~~[at]~~
13 which the person is enrolled ~~[, and~~

14 ~~[(2) in a subsequent academic year, the person:~~

15 ~~[(A) completes at least 75 percent of the~~
16 ~~semester credit hours attempted in the student's most recent~~
17 ~~academic year, and~~

18 ~~[(B) earns an overall grade point average of at~~
19 ~~least 2.5 on a four-point scale or the equivalent on coursework~~
20 ~~previously attempted at institutions of higher education].~~

21 SECTION 2. Sections 56.307(h) and (j), Education Code, are
22 amended to read as follows:

23 (h) The ~~[total]~~ amount of a grant ~~[grants]~~ that a student
24 may receive in an academic year under this subchapter is in addition

1 to any grant received [~~and~~] under Section 61.221 so long as the
2 amount received does [~~may~~] not exceed the demonstrated financial
3 need of the student [~~maximum amount authorized under Section~~
4 ~~61.227~~].

5 (j) An institution may use other available sources of
6 financial aid[~~, other than a loan or a Pell grant,~~] to cover any
7 difference in the amount of a TEXAS grant and the actual amount of
8 tuition and required fees at the institution.

9 SECTION 3. Section 56.355(d), Education Code, as added by
10 Chapter 624, Acts of the 77th Legislature, Regular Session, 2001,
11 is amended to read as follows:

12 (d) For the purpose of this section, a person makes
13 satisfactory academic progress toward an associate degree or
14 certificate [~~only~~] if the person meets the satisfactory academic
15 progress requirements to qualify for federal student financial aid
16 at the institution in which the person is enrolled [+

17 [~~(1) completes at least 75 percent of the semester~~
18 ~~credit hours attempted in the student's most recent academic year,~~
19 ~~and~~

20 [~~(2) earns an overall grade point average of at least~~
21 ~~2.5 on a four-point scale or the equivalent on course work~~
22 ~~previously attempted at institutions of higher education~~].

23 SECTION 4. Sections 56.357(e) and (g), Education Code, as
24 added by Chapter 624, Acts of the 77th Legislature, Regular
25 Session, 2001, are amended to read as follows:

26 (e) The [~~total~~] amount of a grant [~~grants~~] that a student
27 may receive in an academic year under this subchapter is in addition

1 to any grant received [~~and~~] under Section 61.221 so long as the
2 amount received does [~~may~~] not exceed the demonstrated financial
3 need of the student [~~maximum amount authorized under Section~~
4 ~~61.227~~].

5 (g) An institution may use other available sources of
6 financial aid[~~, other than a loan or a Pell grant,~~] to cover any
7 difference in the amount of a TEXAS grant II and the actual amount
8 of tuition and required fees at the institution.

9 SECTION 5. (a) The change in law made by this Act relating
10 to the eligibility of a person to receive a TEXAS grant or TEXAS
11 grant II applies beginning with students who demonstrate
12 eligibility to receive a grant for the 2003-2004 academic year, to
13 the extent TEXAS grants or TEXAS grants II are awarded for that
14 academic year after the effective date of this Act.

15 (b) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
16 implement the other changes made by this Act to the TEXAS grant or
17 TEXAS grant II program as soon as practicable after the effective
18 date of this Act but not later than the 2004-2005 academic year. If
19 the coordinating board determines it necessary, before January 1,
20 2004, the coordinating board may adopt rules to implement a change
21 in law made by this Act in the manner provided by law for emergency
22 rules.

23 SECTION 6. 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.