

By: Wentworth, Shapiro

S.B. No. 86

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the eligibility of a high school graduate for automatic admission to an institution of higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 51.803 and 51.807, Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

Sec. 51.803. AUTOMATIC ADMISSION: ALL INSTITUTIONS.

(a) Each general academic teaching institution shall admit an applicant for admission to the institution as an undergraduate student if the applicant graduated with a grade point average in the top 10 percent of the student's high school graduating class in one of the two school years preceding the academic year for which the applicant is applying for admission and the applicant:

(1) graduated from a public or private high school in this state accredited by a generally recognized accrediting organization or from a high school operated by the United States Department of Defense;

(2) completed the curriculum requirements established under Section 28.025 for the recommended or advanced high school program or an equivalent curriculum at a high school to which that section does not apply; and

(3) [~~To qualify for admission under this section, an applicant must submit an application before the expiration of any application filing deadline established by the institution and,~~] if

1 the applicant graduated from a high school operated by the United
2 States Department of Defense, is [~~must be~~] a Texas resident under
3 Section 54.052 or is [~~be~~] entitled to pay tuition fees at the rate
4 provided for Texas residents under Section 54.058(d) for the term
5 or semester to which admitted.

6 (b) To qualify for admission under this section, an
7 applicant must submit an application before the expiration of any
8 application filing deadline established by the institution.

9 (c) After admitting an applicant under this section, the
10 institution shall review the applicant's record and any other
11 factor the institution considers appropriate to determine whether
12 the applicant may require additional preparation for college-level
13 work or would benefit from inclusion in a retention program. The
14 institution may require a student so identified to enroll during
15 the summer immediately after the student is admitted under this
16 section to participate in appropriate enrichment courses and
17 orientation programs. This section does not prohibit a student who
18 is not determined to need additional preparation for college-level
19 work from enrolling, if the student chooses, during the summer
20 immediately after the student is admitted under this section.

21 (d) Subsection (a)(2) applies beginning with admissions for
22 the 2007-2008 academic year. Subsection (a)(2) does not apply to an
23 applicant who graduated from a public high school that does not
24 offer the curriculum established under Section 28.025 for the
25 recommended or advanced high school program.

26 (e) An applicant who does not satisfy the requirements of
27 Subsection (a)(2) is considered to have satisfied those

1 requirements if the high school from which the student graduated
2 indicates on the student's transcript that the student was unable
3 to complete the appropriate curriculum solely because necessary
4 courses were unavailable to the student at the appropriate times in
5 the student's high school career as a result of course scheduling,
6 lack of enrollment capacity, or another cause not within the
7 student's control.

8 Sec. 51.807. RULEMAKING. (a) The Texas Higher Education
9 Coordinating Board may adopt rules relating to the operation of
10 admissions programs under this subchapter, including rules
11 relating to the identification of eligible students and the
12 reporting requirements of Section 51.806.

13 (b) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board after
14 consulting with the Texas Education Agency by rule shall establish
15 standards for determining for purposes of this subchapter:

16 (1) whether a private high school is accredited by a
17 generally accepted accrediting organization; and

18 (2) whether a person completed a high school
19 curriculum that is equivalent to the curriculum established under
20 Section 28.025 for the recommended or advanced high school program.

21 SECTION 2. Section 28.025, Education Code, is amended by
22 adding Subsections (g) and (g-1) to read as follows:

23 (g) If a student, other than a student permitted to take
24 courses under the minimum high school program as provided by
25 Subsection (b), is unable to complete the recommended or advanced
26 high school program solely because necessary courses were
27 unavailable to the student at the appropriate times in the

1 student's high school career as a result of course scheduling, lack
2 of enrollment capacity, or another cause not within the student's
3 control, the school district shall indicate that fact on the
4 student's transcript form described by Subsection (e).

5 (g-1) Subsection (g) applies to students entering the ninth
6 grade in the 2003-2004 school year and thereafter. This subsection
7 expires January 1, 2004.

8 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.