

By: Wentworth

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) does not apply to an applicant who
22 graduated from a public high school that does not offer the
23 curriculum established under Section 28.025 for the recommended or
24 advanced high school program and that has received a waiver of those
25 curriculum requirements from the Texas Education Agency due to an
26 inability to offer or make available that curriculum.

27 Sec. 51.807. RULEMAKING. (a) The Texas Higher Education

1 Coordinating Board may adopt rules relating to the operation of
2 admissions programs under this subchapter, including rules
3 relating to the identification of eligible students and the
4 reporting requirements of Section 51.806.

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

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

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

13 SECTION 2. (a) This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

14 (b) The change in law made by this Act applies beginning
15 with admissions for the 2004-2005 academic year.