

AN ACT

relating to student eligibility for a TEXAS grant.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter M, Chapter 56, Education Code, as added by Chapter 1590, Acts of the 76th Legislature, Regular Session, 1999, is amended by adding Section 56.3041 to read as follows:

Sec. 56.3041. INITIAL ELIGIBILITY OF PERSON ON TRACK TO COMPLETE RECOMMENDED OR ADVANCED CURRICULUM. (a) If at the time an eligible institution awards TEXAS grants to initial recipients for an academic year an applicant has not completed high school or the applicant's final high school transcript is not yet available to the institution, the student is considered to have satisfied the requirements of Section 56.304(a)(2)(A) if the student's available high school transcript indicates that at the time the transcript was prepared the student was on schedule to graduate from high school and to complete the recommended or advanced high school curriculum or its equivalent, as applicable to the student, in time to be eligible for a TEXAS grant for the academic year.

(b) The coordinating board or the eligible institution may require the student to forgo or repay the amount of an initial TEXAS grant awarded to the student as described by Subsection (a) if the student fails to complete the recommended or advanced high school curriculum or its equivalent after the issuance of the available

1 high school transcript.

2 (c) A person who is required to forgo or repay the amount of  
3 an initial TEXAS grant under Subsection (b) may become eligible to  
4 receive an initial TEXAS grant under Section 56.304 by satisfying  
5 the associate degree requirement prescribed by Section  
6 56.304(a)(2)(B) and the other applicable requirements of that  
7 section at the time the person reapplies for the grant.

8 (d) A person who receives an initial TEXAS grant under  
9 Subsection (a) and is not required to forgo or repay the amount of  
10 the grant under Subsection (b) may become eligible to receive a  
11 subsequent TEXAS grant under Section 56.305 only by satisfying the  
12 associate degree requirement prescribed by Section 56.304(a)(2)(B)  
13 in addition to the requirements of Section 56.305 at the time the  
14 person applies for the subsequent grant.

15 SECTION 2. Subsection (g), Section 56.305, Education Code,  
16 as added by Chapter 1590, Acts of the 76th Legislature, Regular  
17 Session, 1999, is amended to read as follows:

18 (g) The coordinating board shall adopt rules to allow a  
19 person who is otherwise eligible to receive a TEXAS grant, in the  
20 event of a hardship or for other good cause shown, including a  
21 showing of a severe illness or other debilitating condition that  
22 may affect the person's academic performance or that the person is  
23 responsible for the care of a sick, injured, or needy person and  
24 that the person's provision of care may affect the person's academic  
25 performance, to receive a TEXAS grant:

26 (1) while enrolled in a number of semester credit  
27 hours that is less than the number of semester credit hours required

1 under Subsection (a)(3); or

2 (2) if the student's grade point average or completion  
3 rate falls below the satisfactory academic progress requirements of  
4 Subsection (e). [~~The coordinating board may not allow a person to~~  
5 ~~receive a TEXAS grant while enrolled in fewer than six semester~~  
6 ~~credit hours.~~]

7 SECTION 3. Subsections (f), (h), and (j), Section 56.307,  
8 Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

9 (f) The amount of a TEXAS grant may not be reduced by any  
10 gift aid for which the person receiving the grant is eligible,  
11 unless the total amount of a person's grant plus any gift aid  
12 received exceeds the student's financial need [~~total cost of~~  
13 ~~attendance at an eligible institution~~].

14 (h) The total amount of grants that a student may receive in  
15 an academic year under this subchapter and under Section 61.221 may  
16 not exceed the total amount of tuition and required fees charged to  
17 the student for the academic periods for which one or more of the  
18 grants were awarded [~~maximum amount authorized under Section~~  
19 ~~61.227~~].

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

24 SECTION 4. (a) The change in law made by this Act relating  
25 to the eligibility of a person to receive a TEXAS grant applies  
26 beginning with students who demonstrate eligibility to receive a  
27 grant for the 2003-2004 academic year, to the extent TEXAS grants

1 are awarded for that academic year after the effective date of this  
2 Act.

3 (b) The change in law made by this Act to Section 56.307,  
4 Education Code, applies beginning with the 2003-2004 academic year.

5 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
6 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
7 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
8 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
9 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

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

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

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1007 passed the Senate on May 9, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 28, Nays 0; and that the Senate concurred in House amendments on May 30, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1007 passed the House, with amendments, on May 28, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 144, Nays 0, two present not voting.

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

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor