

By: West

S.B. No. 1007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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. Subsection (f), Section 56.307, Education Code,
8 as added by Chapter 1590, Acts of the 76th Legislature, Regular
9 Session, 1999, is amended to read as follows:

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

15 SECTION 4. The change in law made by this Act relating to
16 the eligibility of a person to receive a TEXAS grant applies
17 beginning with students who demonstrate eligibility to receive a
18 grant for the 2003-2004 academic year, to the extent TEXAS grants
19 are awarded for that academic year after the effective date of this
20 Act.

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO. 1

Amend S.B. No. 1007 as follows:

(1) In SECTION 3 of the bill, strike the introductory language (Senate Engrossment, page 3, lines 7-9) and substitute "Subsections (f) and (j), Section 56.307, Education Code, are amended to read as follows:".

(2) In SECTION 3 of the bill, immediately after amended Subsection (f), Section 56.307, Education Code (Senate Engrossment, page 3, between lines 14 and 15), insert the following:

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

78R17062 JRJ-F

Giddings