

By: Ratliff

S.B. No. 1876

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

relating to the conditional grant program administered by the Texas Department of Transportation.

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

SECTION 1. Subdivision (4), Section 56.141, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(4) "Eligible profession" means the profession of engineering or another profession as defined ~~[identified]~~ by ~~[the]~~ department rule for which the department determines there is a need ~~[as having a significant statistical underrepresentation of minorities or women]~~ in the department's workforce.

SECTION 2. Subsection (a), Section 56.142, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The department shall establish and administer a conditional grant program under this subchapter to provide financial assistance to eligible ~~[women and minority]~~ students who agree to work for the department in an eligible profession for the two academic years immediately following the date of the student's receipt of an eligible degree.

SECTION 3. Section 56.143, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 56.143. ELIGIBLE STUDENT. (a) To be eligible for a conditional grant under this subchapter, a student must:

(1) complete and file with the department, on forms

1 prescribed by the department, a conditional grant application and a
2 declaration of intent to become a member of an eligible profession
3 and work for the department for the two academic years immediately
4 following the date of the student's receipt of an eligible degree;

5 (2) enroll in an institution;

6 (3) be a Texas resident, as defined by Texas Higher
7 Education Coordinating Board rule;

8 (4) be economically disadvantaged [~~a minority~~], as
9 defined by department rule [~~, or a woman~~]; and

10 (5) have complied with any other requirements adopted
11 by the department under this subchapter.

12 (b) In determining who should receive a grant under this
13 program, the department:

14 (1) shall give highest priority to students who
15 demonstrate the greatest financial need; and

16 (2) may consider whether the applicant would be the
17 first generation of the applicant's family to attend or graduate
18 from an undergraduate program or from a graduate or professional
19 program.

20 SECTION 4. Section 56.147, Education Code, is amended by
21 reenacting and amending Subsection (b), as amended by Chapters 151
22 and 165, Acts of the 74th Legislature, Regular Session, 1995, and by
23 adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

24 (b) The department shall issue not less than \$400,000
25 annually in conditional grants under this subchapter from money
26 available to fund the conditional grant program [~~gifts, grants, and~~
27 ~~funds described by Subsection (a)~~].

1 (c) The department may provide outreach programs to recruit
2 students into the conditional grant program.

3 SECTION 5. (a) This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

4 (b) The change in law made by this Act does not affect the
5 eligibility of a person awarded a grant under Subchapter I, Chapter
6 56, Education Code, before the effective date of this Act to receive
7 the grant or to participate in the conditional grant program under
8 Subchapter I, Chapter 56, Education Code, as that subchapter
9 existed when the person was awarded the grant, and the former law is
10 continued in effect for that person.