

By: Ratliff

S.B. No. 1876

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the conditional grant program administered by the Texas  
3 Department of Transportation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (b) The change in law made by this Act does not affect the  
24 eligibility of a person awarded a grant under Subchapter I, Chapter  
25 56, Education Code, before the effective date of this Act to receive  
26 the grant or to participate in the conditional grant program under  
27 Subchapter I, Chapter 56, Education Code, as that subchapter

1 existed when the person was awarded the grant, and the former law is  
2 continued in effect for that person.