

1-1 By: Ratliff S.B. No. 1876
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 21, 2003; March 24, 2003, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Infrastructure Development
1-4 and Security; April 15, 2003, reported favorably by the following
1-5 vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; April 15, 2003, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to the conditional grant program administered by the Texas
1-9 Department of Transportation.

1-10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-11 SECTION 1. Subdivision (4), Section 56.141, Education Code,
1-12 is amended to read as follows:

1-13 (4) "Eligible profession" means the profession of
1-14 engineering or another profession as defined [~~identified~~] by [~~the~~]
1-15 department rule for which the department determines there is a need
1-16 [~~as having a significant statistical underrepresentation of~~
1-17 ~~minorities or women~~] in the department's workforce.

1-18 SECTION 2. Subsection (a), Section 56.142, Education Code,
1-19 is amended to read as follows:

1-20 (a) The department shall establish and administer a
1-21 conditional grant program under this subchapter to provide
1-22 financial assistance to eligible [~~women and minority~~] students who
1-23 agree to work for the department in an eligible profession for the
1-24 two academic years immediately following the date of the student's
1-25 receipt of an eligible degree.

1-26 SECTION 3. Section 56.143, Education Code, is amended to
1-27 read as follows:

1-28 Sec. 56.143. ELIGIBLE STUDENT. To be eligible for a
1-29 conditional grant under this subchapter, a student must:

1-30 (1) complete and file with the department, on forms
1-31 prescribed by the department, a conditional grant application and a
1-32 declaration of intent to become a member of an eligible profession
1-33 and work for the department for the two academic years immediately
1-34 following the date of the student's receipt of an eligible degree;

1-35 (2) enroll in an institution;

1-36 (3) be a Texas resident, as defined by Texas Higher
1-37 Education Coordinating Board rule;

1-38 (4) be economically disadvantaged [~~a minority~~], as
1-39 defined by department rule [~~, or a woman~~]; and

1-40 (5) have complied with any other requirements adopted
1-41 by the department under this subchapter.

1-42 SECTION 4. Section 56.147, Education Code, is amended by
1-43 reenacting and amending Subsection (b), as amended by Chapters 151
1-44 and 165, Acts of the 74th Legislature, Regular Session, 1995, and by
1-45 adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

1-46 (b) The department shall issue not less than \$400,000
1-47 annually in conditional grants under this subchapter from money
1-48 available to fund the conditional grant program [~~gifts, grants, and~~
1-49 ~~funds described by Subsection (a)~~].

1-50 (c) The department may provide outreach programs to recruit
1-51 students into the conditional grant program.

1-52 SECTION 5. (a) This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

1-53 (b) The change in law made by this Act does not affect the
1-54 eligibility of a person awarded a grant under Subchapter I, Chapter
1-55 56, Education Code, before the effective date of this Act to receive
1-56 the grant or to participate in the conditional grant program under
1-57 Subchapter I, Chapter 56, Education Code, as that subchapter
1-58 existed when the person was awarded the grant, and the former law is
1-59 continued in effect for that person.

1-60 * * * * *