

By: Howard

H.B. No. 23

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

relating to prohibiting discrimination based on a student's secondary school in awarding certain financial aid for higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Section 56.304(a), Education Code, as amended by Senate Bill No. 1227, Acts of the 79th Legislature, Regular Session, 2005, is amended to read as follows:

(a) To be eligible initially for a TEXAS grant, a person must:

(1) be a resident of this state as determined by coordinating board rules;

(2) meet either of the following academic requirements:

(A) be a graduate of a public or ~~[accredited]~~ private high school, including a home school, in this state who graduated not earlier than the 1998-1999 school year and who completed the recommended or advanced high school curriculum established under Section 28.002 or 28.025 or its equivalent; or

(B) have received an associate degree from a public or private institution of higher education not earlier than May 1, 2001;

(3) meet financial need requirements as defined by the coordinating board;

1 (4) be enrolled in an undergraduate degree or
2 certificate program at an eligible institution;

3 (5) be enrolled as:

4 (A) an entering undergraduate student for at
5 least three-fourths of a full course load for an entering
6 undergraduate student, as determined by the coordinating board, not
7 later than the 16th month after the date of the person's graduation
8 from high school; or

9 (B) an entering student for at least
10 three-fourths of a full course load for an undergraduate student as
11 determined by the coordinating board, not later than the 12th month
12 after the month the person receives an associate degree from a
13 public or private institution of higher education;

14 (6) have applied for any available financial aid or
15 assistance; and

16 (7) comply with any additional nonacademic
17 requirement adopted by the coordinating board under this
18 subchapter.

19 SECTION 2. Section 56.455, Education Code, as amended by
20 Senate Bill No. 579, Acts of the 79th Legislature, Regular Session,
21 2005, is amended to read as follows:

22 Sec. 56.455. INITIAL ELIGIBILITY FOR LOAN. To be eligible
23 initially for a Texas B-On-time loan, a person must:

24 (1) be a resident of this state under Section 54.052 or
25 be entitled, as a child of a member of the armed forces of the United
26 States, to pay tuition at the rate provided for residents of this
27 state under Section 54.058;

1 (2) meet one of the following academic requirements:

2 (A) be a graduate of a public or [~~accredited~~]
3 private high school, including a home school, in this state who
4 graduated not earlier than the 2002-2003 school year under the
5 recommended or advanced high school program established under
6 Section 28.025(a) or its equivalent;

7 (B) be a graduate of a high school operated by the
8 United States Department of Defense who:

9 (i) graduated from that school not earlier
10 than the 2002-2003 school year; and

11 (ii) at the time of graduation from that
12 school was a dependent child of a member of the armed forces of the
13 United States; or

14 (C) have received an associate degree from an
15 eligible institution not earlier than May 1, 2005;

16 (3) be enrolled for a full course load for an
17 undergraduate student, as determined by the coordinating board, in
18 an undergraduate degree or certificate program at an eligible
19 institution;

20 (4) be eligible for federal financial aid, except that
21 a person is not required to meet any financial need requirement
22 applicable to a particular federal financial aid program; and

23 (5) comply with any additional nonacademic
24 requirement adopted by the coordinating board under this
25 subchapter.

26 SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act in amending
27 Sections 56.304(a) and 56.455, Education Code, applies beginning

1 with student financial aid awarded for the 2006-2007 academic year.
2 The change in law does not affect student financial aid awarded for
3 an academic period before that academic year, and the former law is
4 continued in effect for that purpose.

5 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect February 1, 2006.