

By: McClendon

H.B. No. 64

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the automatic admission to public institutions of  
3 higher education of certain undergraduate transfer students.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 51.801, Education Code, is amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 Sec. 51.801. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter, "general  
8 academic teaching institution," "governing board," "medical and  
9 dental unit," "public junior college," "public technical  
10 institute," and "university system" have the meanings assigned by  
11 Section 61.003.

12 SECTION 2. Subchapter U, Chapter 51, Education Code, is  
13 amended by adding Section 51.8065 to read as follows:

14 Sec. 51.8065. AUTOMATIC ADMISSION: UNDERGRADUATE TRANSFER  
15 STUDENTS HOLDING ASSOCIATE DEGREES OR CERTIFICATES. (a) In this  
16 section, "public upper-level institution of higher education"  
17 means an institution of higher education that offers only  
18 junior-level and senior-level courses or only junior-level,  
19 senior-level, and graduate-level courses.

20 (b) Except as provided by Subsection (g), each general  
21 academic teaching institution shall admit an applicant for  
22 admission to the institution as an undergraduate transfer student  
23 if in the year preceding the academic year for which the applicant  
24 is applying for admission under this section the applicant:

1           (1) received a degree or certificate from a public  
2 junior college or public technical institute in a program requiring  
3 at least 42 semester credit hours in the core curriculum; and

4           (2) completed the degree or certificate program with a  
5 cumulative grade point average of at least a 3.0 on a four-point  
6 scale or the equivalent.

7           (c) To qualify for admission under this section, an  
8 applicant must submit an application before the expiration of any  
9 application filing deadline established by the institution.

10           (d) After admitting an applicant under this section, the  
11 institution may review the applicant's record and any other factor  
12 the institution considers appropriate to determine whether the  
13 applicant may require additional preparation for college-level  
14 work or would benefit from inclusion in a retention program. The  
15 institution may require a student so identified to enroll during  
16 the summer immediately after the student is admitted under this  
17 section to participate in appropriate enrichment courses and  
18 orientation programs. This section does not prohibit a student who  
19 is not determined to need additional preparation for college-level  
20 work from enrolling, if the student chooses, during the summer  
21 immediately after the student is admitted under this section.

22           (e) Admission to a specific general academic teaching  
23 institution is contingent on the availability of space within the  
24 institution for the admission of additional students.

25           (f) Admissions to a particular program or school within a  
26 general academic teaching institution are based solely on the  
27 requirements of the institution.

1           (g) This section does not apply to admission to:

2                   (1) a public upper-level institution of higher  
3 education; or

4                   (2) any other general academic teaching institution  
5 if, with respect to the academic year for which an undergraduate  
6 transfer student has applied for admission, the institution has  
7 filled through automatic admission as required by the other  
8 provisions of this subchapter at least 50 percent of the spaces  
9 available for entering undergraduate students at the institution.

10           SECTION 3. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
11 and the governing board of each general academic teaching  
12 institution shall adopt rules or policies relating to the admission  
13 of students under Section 51.8065, Education Code, as added by this  
14 Act, not later than February 1, 2006.

15           SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005, and  
16 applies beginning with admissions for the 2006 fall semester.