

By: Goolsby

H.B. No. 656

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the eligibility of a high school graduate for automatic admission to an institution of higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 51.803 and 51.807, Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

Sec. 51.803. AUTOMATIC ADMISSION: ALL INSTITUTIONS. (a) Each general academic teaching institution shall admit an applicant for admission to the institution as an undergraduate student if the applicant:

(1) graduated ~~[with a grade point average in the top 10 percent of the student's high school graduating class in one of the two school years preceding the academic year for which the applicant is applying for admission and the applicant graduated]~~ from:

(A) a public or private high school in this state accredited by a generally recognized accrediting organization; or

(B) ~~[from]~~ a high school operated by the United States Department of Defense ~~[. To qualify for admission under this section, an applicant must submit an application before the expiration of any application filing deadline established by the institution and],~~ if the applicant is ~~[graduated from a high school operated by the United States Department of Defense, must be]~~ a Texas resident under Section 54.052 or is ~~[be]~~ entitled to pay

1 tuition fees at the rate provided for Texas residents under Section
2 54.058(d) for the term or semester to which admitted;

3 (2) beginning with admissions for the 2008-2009
4 academic year, completed the curriculum requirements established
5 under Section 28.025 for the recommended or advanced high school
6 program or an equivalent curriculum at a high school to which that
7 section does not apply; and

8 (3) in one of the two school years preceding the
9 academic year for which the applicant is applying for admission,
10 graduated with a grade point average in:

11 (A) the top 10 percent of the student's high
12 school graduating class if the student graduated from high school
13 before the 2009-2010 school year; or

14 (B) the top five percent of the student's high
15 school graduating class if the student graduated from high school
16 in the 2009-2010 school year or a subsequent school year.

17 (b) To qualify for admission under this section, an
18 applicant must submit an application before the expiration of any
19 application filing deadline established by the institution.

20 (c) After admitting an applicant under this section, the
21 institution shall review the applicant's record and any other
22 factor the institution considers appropriate to determine whether
23 the applicant may require additional preparation for college-level
24 work or would benefit from inclusion in a retention program. The
25 institution may require a student so identified to enroll during
26 the summer immediately after the student is admitted under this
27 section to participate in appropriate enrichment courses and

1 orientation programs. This section does not prohibit a student who
2 is not determined to need additional preparation for college-level
3 work from enrolling, if the student chooses, during the summer
4 immediately after the student is admitted under this section.

5 (d) Subsection (a)(2) does not apply to an applicant who
6 graduated from a public high school that does not offer the
7 curriculum established under Section 28.025 for the recommended or
8 advanced high school program.

9 (e) An applicant who does not satisfy the curriculum
10 requirements of Subsection (a)(2) is considered to have satisfied
11 those requirements if the high school from which the student
12 graduated indicates on the student's transcript that the student
13 completed the portion of the curriculum that was available to the
14 student but was unable to complete the curriculum solely because
15 courses necessary to complete the curriculum were unavailable to
16 the student at the appropriate times in the student's high school
17 career as a result of course scheduling, lack of enrollment
18 capacity, or another cause not within the student's control.

19 (f) Subsection (a)(2) does not apply to admission of a
20 student who graduated from high school before the 2007-2008 school
21 year. This subsection expires September 1, 2010.

22 Sec. 51.807. RULEMAKING. (a) The Texas Higher Education
23 Coordinating Board may adopt rules relating to the operation of
24 admissions programs under this subchapter, including rules
25 relating to the identification of eligible students and the
26 reporting requirements of Section 51.806.

27 (b) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board after

1 consulting with the Texas Education Agency by rule shall establish
2 standards for determining for purposes of this subchapter:

3 (1) whether a private high school is accredited by a
4 generally recognized accrediting organization; and

5 (2) whether a person completed a high school
6 curriculum that is equivalent to the curriculum established under
7 Section 28.025 for the recommended or advanced high school program.

8 SECTION 2. Section 28.025(g), Education Code, is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 (g) If a student, other than a student permitted to take
11 courses under the minimum high school program as provided by
12 Subsection (b), is unable to complete the recommended or advanced
13 high school program solely because necessary courses were
14 unavailable to the student at the appropriate times in the
15 student's high school career as a result of course scheduling, lack
16 of enrollment capacity, or another cause not within the student's
17 control, the school district, ~~[shall indicate that fact]~~ on the
18 student's transcript form described by Subsection (e), shall:

19 (1) indicate whether the student completed those
20 courses necessary to complete the program that were available to
21 the student; and

22 (2) identify those courses necessary to complete the
23 program that were unavailable to the student as a result of course
24 scheduling, lack of enrollment capacity, or another cause not
25 within the student's control.

26 SECTION 3. Section 28.026, Education Code, is amended to
27 read as follows:

1 Sec. 28.026. NOTICE OF AUTOMATIC COLLEGE ADMISSION. (a)

2 The board of trustees of a school district shall require each high
3 school in the district to post appropriate signs in each
4 counselor's office, in each principal's office, and in each
5 administrative building indicating the substance of Section 51.803
6 regarding automatic college admission. To assist in the
7 dissemination of this information, the school district shall:

8 (1) require that each high school counselor and class
9 advisor be provided a detailed explanation of the substance of
10 Section 51.803;

11 (2) provide each district student, at the time the
12 student first registers for one or more classes required for high
13 school graduation, with a written notification of the substance of
14 Section 51.803;

15 (3) require that each high school counselor and senior
16 class advisor explain to eligible students the substance of Section
17 51.803; and

18 (4) [~~(3)~~] provide each eligible senior student under
19 Section 51.803, at the commencement of a class's senior year, with a
20 written notification of the student's eligibility with a detailed
21 explanation of the substance of Section 51.803.

22 (b) The commissioner shall adopt forms to use in providing
23 notice under Subsections (a)(2) and (4). In providing notice under
24 Subsection (a)(2) or (4), a school district shall use the
25 appropriate form adopted by the commissioner.

26 (c) The commissioner shall adopt procedures to ensure that,
27 as soon as practicable after this subsection becomes law, each

1 school district provides written notification of the substance of
2 Section 51.803, as amended by the 79th Legislature, Regular
3 Session, 2005, to each district student who, for the 2005-2006
4 school year, registers for the first time for one or more courses
5 required for high school graduation. The commissioner may adopt
6 rules under this subsection in the manner provided by law for
7 emergency rules. Each district shall comply with the procedures
8 adopted by the commissioner under this subsection. This subsection
9 expires September 1, 2006.

10 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.