

By: Branch

H.B. No. 1046

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the automatic admission of undergraduate students to
3 general academic teaching institutions.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 51.803, Education Code, is amended by
6 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (c) to read as
7 follows:

8 (a) Subject to Subsection (c), each ~~Each~~ general academic
9 teaching institution shall admit an applicant for admission to the
10 institution as an undergraduate student if the applicant graduated
11 with a grade point average in the top 10 percent of the student's
12 high school graduating class in one of the two school years
13 preceding the academic year for which the applicant is applying for
14 admission and the applicant graduated from a public or private high
15 school in this state accredited by a generally recognized
16 accrediting organization or from a high school operated by the
17 United States Department of Defense. To qualify for admission
18 under this section, an applicant must submit an application before
19 the expiration of any application filing deadline established by
20 the institution and, if the applicant graduated from a high school
21 operated by the United States Department of Defense, must be a Texas
22 resident under Section 54.052 or be entitled to pay tuition fees at
23 the rate provided for Texas residents under Section 54.058(d) for
24 the term or semester to which admitted.

1 (c) A general academic teaching institution shall reserve
2 for admissions under Subsection (a) not less than 50 percent of the
3 institution's enrollment capacity designated for first-time
4 undergraduate students. If the number of applicants who qualify
5 for automatic admission to a general academic teaching institution
6 under Subsection (a) exceeds the number of spaces reserved by the
7 institution for admissions under Subsection (a), the institution
8 shall offer admission to those applicants by percentile rank
9 according to graduating class standing based on grade point
10 average, beginning with the top percentile rank, until a sufficient
11 number of applicants have accepted admission offers to fill those
12 spaces, except that the institution must offer admission to all
13 applicants with the same percentile rank. The institution shall
14 consider any remaining applicants qualified for automatic
15 admission under Subsection (a) in the same manner as other
16 applicants for admission as first-time freshman students in
17 accordance with Section 51.805.

18 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies
19 beginning with admissions to institutions of higher education for
20 the 2006-2007 academic year. Admissions to an institution of
21 higher education before that academic year are covered by the law in
22 effect before the effective date of this Act, and the former law is
23 continued in effect for that purpose.

24 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.