

By: West

S.B. No. 502

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to common undergraduate admission application forms for public institutions of higher education in this state.

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

SECTION 1. Section 51.761, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 51.761. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter, "board," "general academic teaching institution," "governing board," "institution of higher education," "public state college," "public technical institute," and "university system" have the meanings assigned by Section 61.003 [~~of this code~~].

SECTION 2. Section 51.762, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 51.762. COMMON ADMISSION APPLICATION FORMS. (a) The board, with the assistance of an advisory committee composed of representatives of general academic teaching institutions, junior college districts, public state colleges, and public technical institutes, and with the consultation of all [~~affected general academic teaching~~] institutions of higher education that admit freshman-level students:

(1) [~~7~~] shall adopt by rule:

(A) a common admission application form for use by a person seeking admission as a freshman student to a general academic teaching institution; and

1 (B) an electronic common admission application
2 form for use by a person seeking admission as a freshman student to
3 an institution of higher education that admits freshman-level
4 students, other than a general academic teaching institution; and

5 (2) may adopt by rule a printed format common
6 admission application form for use by a person seeking admission as
7 a freshman student to an institution of higher education that
8 admits freshman-level students, other than a general academic
9 teaching institution. ~~[In addition to information required to~~
10 ~~determine the residency status of the applicant and information~~
11 ~~relating to the use of the form at each institution, the board shall~~
12 ~~include on the form information that the board considers~~
13 ~~appropriate.]~~

14 (b) The board, with the assistance of an advisory committee
15 composed of representatives of general academic teaching
16 institutions, junior college districts, public state colleges, and
17 public technical institutes, and with the consultation of all
18 ~~[affected general academic teaching]~~ institutions of higher
19 education that admit undergraduate transfer students, may adopt by
20 rule:

21 (1) a common admission application form for use by a
22 person seeking admission as an undergraduate transfer student to a
23 general academic teaching institution; and

24 (2) an electronic or printed format common admission
25 application form for use by a person seeking admission as an
26 undergraduate transfer student to an institution of higher
27 education that admits undergraduate transfer students, other than a

general academic teaching institution.

(c) In addition to information required to determine the residency status of the applicant and information relating to the use of the form at each institution, the board shall include on each application ~~[the]~~ form adopted under this section information that the board considers appropriate.

(d) The board shall attempt to ensure as much uniformity in the forms adopted under this section as possible, regardless of the category of institution for which the forms are adopted.

(e) ~~[(e)]~~ The board shall publicize in both electronic and printed formats the availability of a form adopted under this section ~~[in both electronic and printed formats]~~.

(f) ~~[(d)]~~ The board shall ensure that copies of the freshman common admission application forms ~~[form]~~ and information for the ~~[its]~~ use of the forms are available in electronic format for distribution to the appropriate personnel at each public high school in this state.

(g) ~~[(e)]~~ The board shall make a form adopted under this section available to the public electronically by the Internet or other commonly used telecommunications media and may contract with an institution of higher education or other provider to satisfy this requirement.

(h) ~~[(f)]~~ An applicant may file, and each ~~[general academic teaching]~~ institution of higher education shall accept, an application for admission as an entering ~~[a]~~ freshman or undergraduate transfer student that uses the appropriate ~~[application using a]~~ form adopted under this section. The form

1 used to apply to a general academic teaching institution may be
 2 filed in either [~~an~~] electronic or printed format. An [~~A general~~
 3 ~~academic teaching~~] institution of higher education is not
 4 prohibited from requiring an applicant to submit additional
 5 information within a reasonable time after the institution has
 6 received an application using a form adopted under this section.

7 (i) [~~(g)~~] In addition to other information considered
 8 appropriate by the board, the board [~~shall~~] by rule shall require
 9 each institution to collect information regarding gender,
 10 ethnicity, and date of birth as part of the application process and
 11 report this information to the board.

12 SECTION 3. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
 13 shall adopt common freshman admission application forms as required
 14 by Section 51.762, Education Code, as amended by this Act, not later
 15 than September 1, 2006. An institution of higher education must
 16 accept freshman applications using the appropriate common
 17 admission application form beginning with applicants for admission
 18 for the 2007-2008 academic year.

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