

By: Barrientos

S.B. No. 1546

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

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

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 51.803, Education Code, is amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 Sec. 51.803. AUTOMATIC ADMISSION: ALL INSTITUTIONS. (a)  
8 Except as permitted by Section 51.8035, each ~~[Each]~~ general  
9 academic teaching institution shall admit an applicant for  
10 admission to the institution as an undergraduate student if the  
11 applicant graduated with a grade point average in the top 10 percent  
12 of the student's high school graduating class in one of the two  
13 school years preceding the academic year for which the applicant is  
14 applying for admission and:

15 (1) the applicant graduated from a public or private  
16 high school in this state accredited by a generally recognized  
17 accrediting organization or from a high school operated by the  
18 United States Department of Defense; and

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

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

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

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

18 SECTION 2. Subchapter U, Chapter 51, Education Code, is  
19 amended by adding Section 51.8035 to read as follows:

20 Sec. 51.8035. ALTERNATIVE AUTOMATIC ADMISSIONS PROCEDURE.

21 (a) A general academic teaching institution that fills more than 70  
22 percent of the institution's freshman enrollment capacity in an  
23 academic year through admissions under Section 51.803 may elect to  
24 admit first-time freshman students for the following academic year  
25 under this section and may make admissions under this section in any  
26 other academic year immediately following an academic year for  
27 which the institution makes admissions under this section. Section

1 51.803 does not apply to an academic year for which the institution  
2 makes admissions under this section.

3 (b) For an academic year for which an institution elects to  
4 make admissions under this section, the institution may admit  
5 automatically only a percentage of students that the institution  
6 estimates in good faith will result in a total number of automatic  
7 admissions under this section in that academic year that is equal to  
8 65 percent of the institution's freshman enrollment capacity for  
9 that year.

10 (c) After making admissions under Subsection (b), the  
11 institution shall consider any remaining applicants eligible for  
12 automatic admission under Section 51.803 in the same manner as  
13 other applicants for admission as first-time freshman students in  
14 accordance with Section 51.805.

15 (d) The governing board of a university system that includes  
16 more than one component general academic teaching institution shall  
17 adopt a policy under which an application for automatic admission  
18 under this subchapter to a component general academic teaching  
19 institution making admissions under this section is treated as an  
20 additional application for admission as a first-time freshman  
21 student to another component general academic teaching institution  
22 selected by the applicant. Under the policy, the university system  
23 must offer to an applicant described by Subsection (c) who is not  
24 admitted to the component institution making admissions under this  
25 section alternative admission, as selected by the applicant, to  
26 another component general academic teaching institution making  
27 admissions under Section 51.803. A policy adopted under this

1 subsection must:

2 (1) include a process through which the university  
3 system requests each eligible applicant to list, in order of  
4 preference, the alternative general academic teaching institutions  
5 in the system to which the applicant prefers to be admitted under  
6 this subsection if the applicant is not admitted to the applicant's  
7 first choice of a component institution under this subchapter; and

8 (2) require a component general academic teaching  
9 institution making admissions under this section to give an  
10 applicant for transfer who was rejected for admission as a  
11 first-time freshman student by the institution under this  
12 subchapter and who enrolled in another component institution under  
13 this subsection priority over other applicants for transfer who  
14 have an equal or lower undergraduate grade point average.

15 (e) A general academic teaching institution that rejects a  
16 student described by Subsection (c) for admission as a first-time  
17 freshman student under this subchapter may not, for purposes of  
18 admissions to a graduate, postgraduate, or professional degree  
19 program of the institution, discount or otherwise adjust downward  
20 any grade point average of the student that is based on  
21 undergraduate course work completed at another public or private  
22 institution of higher education.

23 SECTION 3. (a) The change in law made by this Act in adding  
24 Section 51.8035, Education Code, applies beginning with admissions  
25 to general academic teaching institutions for the 2007-2008  
26 academic year. Admissions to a general academic teaching  
27 institution before that academic year are covered by the law in

1 effect before the effective date of this Act, and the former law is  
2 continued in effect for that purpose.

3 (b) Not later than September 1, 2006, the governing board of  
4 a university system including more than one component general  
5 academic teaching institution shall adopt the policy required by  
6 Section 51.8035(d), Education Code, as added by this Act. The  
7 university system shall provide to the board of trustees of each  
8 school district in the state reasonable notice of the policy not  
9 later than November 1, 2006.

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