

By: Branch

H.B. No. 78

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to limitations on the automatic admission of undergraduate students to general academic teaching institutions.

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

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

(a) Subject to Subsection (c), each ~~Each~~ general academic teaching institution shall admit an applicant for admission to the institution as an undergraduate student if the applicant 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 public or private high school in this state accredited by a generally recognized accrediting organization or 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 graduated from a high school operated by the United States Department of Defense, must be a Texas resident under Section 54.052 or be entitled to pay tuition fees at the rate provided for Texas residents under Section 54.058(d) for the term or semester to which admitted.

1        (c) For each academic year, a general academic teaching  
2 institution shall reserve for admissions under Subsection (a) not  
3 less than 40 percent of the institution's enrollment capacity  
4 designated for first-time resident undergraduate students. If a  
5 general academic teaching institution does not reserve a percentage  
6 of the institution's enrollment capacity for admissions under  
7 Subsection (a), the institution is considered to have reserved 100  
8 percent of its enrollment capacity designated for first-time  
9 resident undergraduate students for that purpose. Subsection (a)  
10 does not apply to the portion of the institution's enrollment  
11 capacity designated for first-time undergraduate students that is  
12 not reserved under this subsection for admissions under Subsection  
13 (a). If the number of applicants who qualify for automatic  
14 admission to a general academic teaching institution under  
15 Subsection (a) exceeds the number of spaces reserved by the  
16 institution for admissions under Subsection (a), the institution  
17 shall offer admission to those applicants by percentile rank  
18 according to graduating class standing based on grade point  
19 average, beginning with the top percentile rank, until a sufficient  
20 number of applicants have accepted admission offers to fill those  
21 spaces, except that the institution must offer admission to all  
22 applicants with the same percentile rank. The institution shall  
23 consider any remaining applicants qualified for automatic  
24 admission under Subsection (a) in the same manner as other  
25 applicants for admission as first-time undergraduate students in  
26 accordance with Section 51.805.

27        SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies

1 beginning with admissions to institutions of higher education for  
2 the 2008-2009 academic year. Admissions to an institution of  
3 higher education before that academic year are governed by the law  
4 in effect before the effective date of this Act, and the former law  
5 is continued in effect for that purpose.

6 SECTION 3. (a) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating  
7 Board shall adopt rules relating to the admission of students under  
8 Section 51.803, Education Code, as amended by this Act, as soon as  
9 practicable after the effective date of this Act.

10 (b) A general academic teaching institution shall reserve  
11 for admissions under Section 51.803(a), Education Code, as amended  
12 by this Act, a percentage of the institution's enrollment capacity  
13 designated for first-time resident undergraduate students for the  
14 2008 fall semester as required by Section 51.803(c), Education  
15 Code, as added by this Act, not later than January 1, 2008.

16 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.