

By: Woolley

H.B. No. 212

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1

2 relating to eliminating automatic admission to certain public  
3 institutions of higher education based on high school grade point  
4 average.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 28.0252(b), Education Code, is amended  
7 to read as follows:

8 (b) If the commissioner develops a standard method under  
9 this section, a school district shall use the standard method to  
10 compute a student's high school grade point average[, and the  
11 ~~student's grade point average computed in that manner shall be used~~  
12 ~~in determining the student's eligibility for automatic college~~  
13 ~~admission under Section 51.803].~~

14 SECTION 2. Section 33.007(b), Education Code, is amended to  
15 read as follows:

16 (b) During the first school year a student is enrolled in a  
17 high school or at the high school level in an open-enrollment  
18 charter school, and again during a student's senior year, a  
19 counselor shall provide information about higher education to the  
20 student and the student's parent or guardian. The information must  
21 include information regarding:

22 (1) the importance of higher education;

23 (2) the advantages of completing the recommended or  
24 advanced high school program adopted under Section 28.025(a);

1           (3) the disadvantages of taking courses to prepare for  
2 a high school equivalency examination relative to the benefits of  
3 taking courses leading to a high school diploma;

4           (4) financial aid eligibility;

5           (5) instruction on how to apply for federal financial  
6 aid;

7           (6) the center for financial aid information  
8 established under Section 61.0776;

9           ~~[(7) the automatic admission of certain students to  
10 general academic teaching institutions as provided by Section  
11 51.803,]~~ and

12           (7) ~~[(8)]~~ the eligibility and academic performance  
13 requirements for the TEXAS Grant as provided by Subchapter M,  
14 Chapter 56 ~~[, as added by Chapter 1590, Acts of the 76th Legislature,  
15 Regular Session, 1999]~~.

16           SECTION 3. Section 51.4032, Education Code, as added by  
17 Chapter 694, Acts of the 79th Legislature, Regular Session, 2005,  
18 is amended to read as follows:

19           Sec. 51.4032. ANNUAL REPORT OF PARTICIPATION IN HIGHER  
20 EDUCATION. Not later than July 31 of each year and in the form  
21 prescribed by the coordinating board, each general academic  
22 teaching institution and medical and dental unit as defined in  
23 Section 61.003 shall provide to the Texas Higher Education  
24 Coordinating Board a report describing the composition of the  
25 institution's entering class of students. The report must include  
26 a demographic breakdown of the class, including a breakdown by  
27 race, ethnicity, and economic status. ~~[A report submitted by a~~

1 ~~general academic teaching institution or medical and dental unit as~~  
2 ~~defined in Section 61.003 must include separate demographic~~  
3 ~~breakdowns of the students admitted under Sections 51.803, 51.804,~~  
4 ~~and 51.805.]~~

5 SECTION 4. The heading to Section 51.805, Education Code,  
6 is amended to read as follows:

7 Sec. 51.805. UNDERGRADUATE ~~[OTHER]~~ ADMISSIONS.

8 SECTION 5. Sections 51.805(a) and (b), Education Code, are  
9 amended to read as follows:

10 (a) ~~[A graduating student who does not qualify for admission~~  
11 ~~under Section 51.803 or 51.804 may apply to any general academic~~  
12 ~~teaching institution.]~~

13 ~~[(b) The general academic teaching institution, after~~  
14 ~~admitting students under Sections 51.803 and 51.804, shall admit~~  
15 ~~other applicants for admission as undergraduate students.]~~ It is  
16 the intent of the legislature that all institutions of higher  
17 education pursue academic excellence by considering students'  
18 academic achievements in decisions related to admissions.

19 (b) Because of changing demographic trends, diversity, and  
20 population increases in the state, each general academic teaching  
21 institution shall also consider all of, any of, or a combination of  
22 the following socioeconomic indicators or factors in making  
23 first-time freshman admissions decisions:

24 (1) the applicant's academic record;

25 (2) the socioeconomic background of the applicant,  
26 including the percentage by which the applicant's family is above  
27 or below any recognized measure of poverty, the applicant's

1 household income, and the applicant's parents' level of education;

2 (3) whether the applicant would be the first  
3 generation of the applicant's family to attend or graduate from an  
4 institution of higher education;

5 (4) whether the applicant has bilingual proficiency;

6 (5) the financial status of the applicant's school  
7 district;

8 (6) the performance level of the applicant's school as  
9 determined by the school accountability criteria used by the Texas  
10 Education Agency;

11 (7) the applicant's responsibilities while attending  
12 school, including whether the applicant has been employed, whether  
13 the applicant has helped to raise children, or other similar  
14 factors;

15 (8) the applicant's region of residence;

16 (9) whether the applicant is a resident of a rural or  
17 urban area or a resident of a central city or suburban area in the  
18 state;

19 (10) the applicant's performance on standardized  
20 tests;

21 (11) the applicant's performance on standardized tests  
22 in comparison with that of other students from similar  
23 socioeconomic backgrounds;

24 (12) whether the applicant attended any school while  
25 the school was under a court-ordered desegregation plan;

26 (13) the applicant's involvement in community  
27 activities;

- 1           (14) the applicant's extracurricular activities;
- 2           (15) the applicant's commitment to a particular field  
3 of study;
- 4           (16) the applicant's personal interview;
- 5           (17) the applicant's admission to a comparable  
6 accredited out-of-state institution; and
- 7           (18) any other consideration the institution  
8 considers necessary to accomplish the institution's stated  
9 mission.

10           SECTION 6. Section 51.842(a), Education Code, is amended to  
11 read as follows:

12           (a) A graduate or professional program of a general academic  
13 teaching institution or medical or dental unit may consider the  
14 following factors in making an admissions or scholarship decision  
15 for admissions into or competitive scholarships for the graduate or  
16 professional program:

17           (1) an applicant's academic record as a high school  
18 student and undergraduate student;

19           (2) the socioeconomic background of the applicant  
20 while the applicant attended elementary and secondary school and  
21 was an undergraduate student, including any change in that  
22 background;

23           (3) whether the applicant would be the first  
24 generation of the applicant's family to attend or graduate from an  
25 undergraduate program or from a graduate or professional program;

26           (4) whether the applicant has multilingual  
27 proficiency;

1           (5) the applicant's responsibilities while attending  
2 elementary and secondary school and as an undergraduate student,  
3 including whether the applicant was employed, whether the applicant  
4 helped to raise children, and other similar factors;

5           (6) to achieve geographic diversity, the applicant's  
6 region of residence at the time of application and, if the applicant  
7 graduated from a public high school in this state within the  
8 preceding 20 years, the region in which the applicant's school  
9 district is located;

10           (7) the applicant's involvement in community  
11 activities;

12           (8) the applicant's demonstrated commitment to a  
13 particular field of study;

14           (9) for admission into a professional program, the  
15 current comparative availability of members of that profession in  
16 the applicant's region of residence while the applicant attended  
17 elementary and secondary school;

18           ~~[(10) whether the applicant was automatically~~  
19 ~~admitted to a general academic teaching institution as an~~  
20 ~~undergraduate student under Section 51.803,] and~~

21           (10) ~~[(11)]~~ the applicant's personal interview.

22           SECTION 7. Sections 28.026, 51.803, 51.804, and 51.8045,  
23 Education Code, are repealed.

24           SECTION 8. The change in law made by this Act applies  
25 beginning with admissions to a general academic teaching  
26 institution for the 2008-2009 academic year. Admissions for an  
27 academic period preceding that academic year are covered by the law

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

3 SECTION 9. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.