

By: Eissler

H.B. No. 415

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the automatic admission of undergraduate students to a  
3 general academic teaching institution that is a component  
4 institution of a university system.

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

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

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

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

3 (c) The governing board of a university system that includes  
4 more than one general academic teaching institution may adopt a  
5 policy under which an application for admission under this section  
6 to one or more of those institutions by a person eligible for  
7 automatic admission under Subsection (a) is treated as an  
8 application for admission as an undergraduate student to any  
9 general academic teaching institution in the system. A university  
10 system that adopts a policy under this subsection must offer an  
11 eligible applicant admission to at least one component general  
12 academic teaching institution of the system. A policy adopted  
13 under this subsection must:

14 (1) include a process through which the university  
15 system requests each eligible applicant to list in order of  
16 preference the general academic teaching institutions in the system  
17 to which the applicant prefers to be admitted under this section;  
18 and

19 (2) require the system to make a reasonable effort to  
20 offer the applicant admission to the institution of the applicant's  
21 highest preference possible consistent with the enrollment needs of  
22 the system.

23 (d) A university system that adopts a policy under  
24 Subsection (c) shall provide to the board of trustees of each school  
25 district in the state reasonable notice of the policy not later than  
26 November 1 of the academic year immediately preceding each academic  
27 year to which the policy applies.

1           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
2 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
3 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
4 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
5 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.