

By: Dutton

H.B. No. 794

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to exempting certain general academic teaching
3 institutions from the requirement that certain high school
4 graduates be granted automatic admission.

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

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

8 (c) This section does not apply to admissions by a general
9 academic teaching institution for an academic year if the total
10 percentage of students from underrepresented racial or ethnic
11 groups enrolled as first-time freshman students at the institution
12 during the preceding academic year equaled or exceeded the total
13 percentage of students from underrepresented racial or ethnic
14 groups listed for the fall semester of the preceding academic year
15 on the roster of the National Collegiate Athletic Association
16 football team fielded by the institution. For purposes of this
17 subsection, a student is from an underrepresented racial or ethnic
18 group if the student identifies himself or herself as an African
19 American student, a Mexican American student or a student of other
20 Hispanic origin, or an American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleutian
21 student.

22 (d) Each general academic teaching institution shall state
23 on the institution's Internet website whether the institution is
24 exempt from Section 51.803 in making admissions for an academic

1 year because of the application of Subsection (c).

2 SECTION 2. Section 51.804, Education Code, is amended to
3 read as follows:

4 Sec. 51.804. ADDITIONAL AUTOMATIC ADMISSIONS: SELECTED
5 INSTITUTIONS. For each academic year, the governing board of each
6 general academic teaching institution to which Section 51.803
7 applies shall determine whether to adopt an admissions policy under
8 which an applicant to the institution as a first-time freshman
9 student, other than an applicant eligible for admission under
10 Section 51.803, shall be admitted to the institution if the
11 applicant graduated from a public or private high school in this
12 state accredited by a generally recognized accrediting
13 organization with a grade point average in the top 25 percent of the
14 applicant's high school graduating class.

15 SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act applies
16 beginning with admissions to institutions of higher education for
17 the 2008-2009 academic year. Admissions to an academic year before
18 that academic year are covered by the law in effect before the
19 effective date of this Act, and the former law is continued in
20 effect for that purpose.

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