

By: Howard of Fort Bend, et al.

H.B. No. 1250

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

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relating to prohibiting discrimination based on a student's secondary school in awarding certain financial aid for higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Section 56.304(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) To be eligible initially for a TEXAS grant, a person must:

(1) be a resident of this state as determined by coordinating board rules;

(2) meet either of the following academic requirements:

(A) be a graduate of a public or ~~[accredited]~~ private high school in this state who graduated not earlier than the 1998-1999 school year and who completed the recommended or advanced high school curriculum established under Section ~~[28.002 or]~~ 28.025 or its equivalent; or

(B) have received an associate degree from a public or private institution of higher education not earlier than May 1, 2001;

(3) meet financial need requirements as defined by the coordinating board;

(4) be enrolled in an undergraduate degree or

1 certificate program at an eligible institution;

2 (5) be enrolled as:

3 (A) an entering undergraduate student for at
4 least three-fourths of a full course load for an entering
5 undergraduate student, as determined by the coordinating board, not
6 later than the 16th month after the date of the person's graduation
7 from high school; or

8 (B) an entering student for at least
9 three-fourths of a full course load for an undergraduate student as
10 determined by the coordinating board, not later than the 12th month
11 after the month the person receives an associate degree from a
12 public or private institution of higher education;

13 (6) have applied for any available financial aid or
14 assistance; and

15 (7) comply with any additional nonacademic
16 requirement adopted by the coordinating board under this
17 subchapter.

18 SECTION 2. Section 56.455, Education Code, is amended to
19 read as follows:

20 Sec. 56.455. INITIAL ELIGIBILITY FOR LOAN. To be eligible
21 initially for a Texas B-On-time loan, a person must:

22 (1) be a resident of this state under Section 54.052 or
23 be entitled, as a child of a member of the armed forces of the United
24 States, to pay tuition at the rate provided for residents of this
25 state under Section 54.058;

26 (2) meet one of the following academic requirements:

27 (A) be a graduate of a public or [~~accredited~~]

1 private high school in this state who graduated not earlier than the
2 2002-2003 school year under the recommended or advanced high school
3 program established under Section 28.025(a) or its equivalent;

4 (B) be a graduate of a high school operated by the
5 United States Department of Defense who:

6 (i) graduated from that school not earlier
7 than the 2002-2003 school year; and

8 (ii) at the time of graduation from that
9 school was a dependent child of a member of the armed forces of the
10 United States; or

11 (C) have received an associate degree from an
12 eligible institution not earlier than May 1, 2005;

13 (3) be enrolled for a full course load for an
14 undergraduate student, as determined by the coordinating board, in
15 an undergraduate degree or certificate program at an eligible
16 institution;

17 (4) be eligible for federal financial aid, except that
18 a person is not required to meet any financial need requirement
19 applicable to a particular federal financial aid program; and

20 (5) comply with any additional nonacademic
21 requirement adopted by the coordinating board under this
22 subchapter.

23 SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act in amending
24 Sections 56.304(a) and 56.455, Education Code, applies beginning
25 with student financial aid awarded for the 2008-2009 academic year.
26 The change in law does not affect student financial aid awarded for
27 an academic period before that academic year, and the former law is

1 continued in effect for that purpose.

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