

By: Morrison

H.B. No. 3851

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the admission of high school graduates and
3 undergraduate transfer students to certain institutions of higher
4 education, the computation of a student's high school grade point
5 average for purposes of determining eligibility for admission, and
6 policies to promote the admission of undergraduate transfer
7 students.

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

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

11 (b) If the commissioner develops a standard method under
12 this section, a school district shall use the standard method to
13 compute a student's high school grade point average, except that to
14 the extent of a conflict between that method and the method adopted
15 under Section 51.807, [and] the student's grade point average
16 computed in accordance with the method established under Section
17 51.807 [that manner] shall be used in determining the student's
18 eligibility for university [automatic college] admission under
19 Subchapter U, Chapter 51 [Section 51.803].

20 SECTION 2. Section 51.807, Education Code, is amended to
21 read as follows:

22 Sec. 51.807. RULEMAKING. (a) To ensure a uniform standard
23 for admissions under this subchapter, the [The] Texas Higher
24 Education Coordinating Board shall adopt rules establishing a

1 standard method for computing a student's high school grade point
2 average. The method established under this subsection:

3 (1) must:

4 (A) be based on a four-point scale; and

5 (B) assign additional weight, as the board
6 considers appropriate, for each honors course, advanced placement
7 course, international baccalaureate course, or dual credit course
8 completed by a student; and

9 (2) may result in a student having a grade point
10 average higher than 4.0 on a four-point scale as a result of the
11 assignment of additional weight for one or more courses completed
12 by a student under Subdivision (1)(B).

13 (b) The board may adopt other rules relating to the
14 operation of admissions programs under this subchapter, including
15 rules relating to the identification of eligible students [~~and the~~
16 ~~reporting requirements of Section 51.806].~~

17 (c) The standard method established under Subsection (a)
18 for computing a student's high school grade point average applies
19 to computing the grade point average of a student applying as a
20 first-time freshman for admission to a general academic teaching
21 institution beginning with admissions for the 2009 fall semester.
22 This subsection expires January 1, 2010.

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

26 Sec. 51.4032. ANNUAL REPORT OF PARTICIPATION IN HIGHER
27 EDUCATION. Not later than July 31 of each year and in the form

1 prescribed by the coordinating board, each general academic
2 teaching institution and medical and dental unit as defined in
3 Section 61.003 shall provide to the Texas Higher Education
4 Coordinating Board a report describing the composition of the
5 institution's entering class of students. The report must include
6 a demographic breakdown of the class, including a breakdown by
7 race, ethnicity, ~~and~~ economic status, and high school grade point
8 average. A report submitted by a general academic teaching
9 institution or medical and dental unit as defined in Section 61.003
10 must include separate demographic breakdowns of the students
11 admitted under Sections 51.803, 51.804, and 51.805.

12 SECTION 4. Section 51.808, Education Code, is amended to
13 read as follows:

14 Sec. 51.808. APPLICATION OF ADMISSION CRITERIA TO OTHER
15 PROGRAMS. (a) Each general academic teaching institution or
16 medical and dental unit that offers admissions to undergraduate
17 transfer students or admissions to a graduate, postgraduate, or
18 professional program shall ~~also~~ adopt a written admission policy
19 applicable to those programs.

20 (b) Each general academic teaching institution shall adopt
21 a written admission policy to promote the admission of
22 undergraduate transfer students to the institution. The policy
23 must provide for outreach and recruiting efforts directed at junior
24 colleges and other lower-division institutions of higher education
25 and may include incentives to encourage transfer applications and
26 to retain and promote transfer students.

27 (c) A ~~The~~ policy adopted under this section shall be

1 published in the institution's or unit's catalog and made available
2 to the public.

3 SECTION 5. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
4 shall adopt rules as required by Section 51.807, Education Code, as
5 amended by this Act, as soon as practicable after the effective date
6 of this Act.

7 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
8 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
9 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
10 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
11 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.