

By: Morrison

H.B. No. 3851

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the admission of high school and community college transfer students to institutions of higher education.

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

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

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

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

Sec. 51.807. RULEMAKING. (a) To ensure a uniform standard for admissions under this subchapter, the [The] Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall adopt rules establishing a standard method for computing a student's high school grade point average. The method established under this subsection:

(1) must:

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

1           (B) assign additional weight, as the board  
2 considers appropriate, for each honors course, advanced placement  
3 course, international baccalaureate course, or dual credit course  
4 completed by a student; and

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

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

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

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

22           Sec. 51.4032. ANNUAL REPORT OF PARTICIPATION IN HIGHER  
23 EDUCATION. Not later than July 31 of each year and in the form  
24 prescribed by the coordinating board, each general academic  
25 teaching institution and medical and dental unit as defined in  
26 Section 61.003 shall provide to the Texas Higher Education  
27 Coordinating Board a report describing the composition of the

1 institution's entering class of students. The report must include  
2 a demographic breakdown of the class, including a breakdown by  
3 race, ethnicity, ~~and~~ economic status, and high school grade point  
4 average. A report submitted by a general academic teaching  
5 institution or medical and dental unit as defined in Section 61.003  
6 must include separate demographic breakdowns of the students  
7 admitted under Sections 51.803, 51.804, and 51.805.

8 SECTION 4. Section 51.808, Education Code, is amended to  
9 read as follows:

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

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

23 (c) A [The] policy adopted under this section shall be  
24 published in the institution's or unit's catalog and made available  
25 to the public.

26 SECTION 5. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
27 shall adopt rules as required by Section 51.807, Education Code, as

1 soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act.

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