

By: Patrick, Dan

S.B. No. 1570

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the eligibility of an undergraduate student for
3 automatic admission to public institutions of higher education.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 51.803, Education Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 Sec. 51.803. AUTOMATIC ADMISSION: ALL INSTITUTIONS. (a)
8 Each general academic teaching institution, other than a general
9 academic teaching institution to which Subsection (b) applies,
10 shall admit an applicant for admission to the institution as an
11 undergraduate student if the applicant:

12 (1) graduated with a grade point average in the top 10
13 percent of the student's high school graduating class in one of the
14 two school years preceding the academic year for which the
15 applicant is applying for admission; and

16 (2) [the applicant] graduated from:

17 (A) a public or private high school in this state
18 accredited by a generally recognized accrediting organization; or

19 (B) [from] a high school operated by the United
20 States Department of Defense, if the applicant is a Texas resident
21 under Section 54.052 or is entitled to pay tuition fees at the rate
22 provided for Texas residents under Section 54.058(d) for the term
23 or semester to which admitted.

24 (b) This subsection applies only to The University of Texas

1 at Austin and Texas A&M University. An institution to which this
2 subsection applies shall admit an applicant for admission to the
3 institution as an undergraduate student if the applicant:

4 (1) meets the requirements prescribed by Subsection
5 (a) for admission under that subsection; and

6 (2) received a score of at least 1,650 out of 2,400 on
7 the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) or an equivalent score on the
8 American College Test (ACT).

9 (c) To qualify for admission under this section, an
10 applicant must submit an application before the expiration of any
11 application filing deadline established by the institution [~~and, if~~
12 ~~the applicant graduated from a high school operated by the United~~
13 ~~States Department of Defense, must be a Texas resident under~~
14 ~~Section 54.052 or be entitled to pay tuition fees at the rate~~
15 ~~provided for Texas residents under Section 54.058(d) for the term~~
16 ~~or semester to which admitted].~~

17 (d) [~~(b)~~] After admitting an applicant under this section,
18 the institution shall review the applicant's record and any other
19 factor the institution considers appropriate to determine whether
20 the applicant may require additional preparation for college-level
21 work or would benefit from inclusion in a retention program. The
22 institution may require a student so identified to enroll during
23 the summer immediately after the student is admitted under this
24 section to participate in appropriate enrichment courses and
25 orientation programs. This section does not prohibit a student who
26 is not determined to need additional preparation for college-level
27 work from enrolling, if the student chooses, during the summer

1 immediately after the student is admitted under this section.

2 (e) If the scoring used for the Scholastic Assessment Test
3 is changed from a scale that has a maximum score of 2,400, the Texas
4 Higher Education Coordinating Board by rule shall prescribe a score
5 equivalent to 1,650 out of 2,400 for purposes of Subsection (b).

6 SECTION 2. Section 28.026, Education Code, is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 Sec. 28.026. NOTICE OF AUTOMATIC COLLEGE ADMISSION. (a)
9 The board of trustees of a school district shall require each high
10 school in the district to post appropriate signs in each
11 counselor's office, in each principal's office, and in each
12 administrative building indicating the substance of Section 51.803
13 regarding automatic college admission. To assist in the
14 dissemination of this information, the school district shall:

15 (1) require that each high school counselor and class
16 advisor be provided a detailed explanation of the substance of
17 Section 51.803;

18 (2) provide each district student, at the time the
19 student first registers for one or more classes required for high
20 school graduation, with a written notification of the substance of
21 Section 51.803;

22 (3) require that each high school counselor and senior
23 class advisor explain to eligible students the substance of Section
24 51.803; and

25 (4) [~~3~~] provide each eligible senior student under
26 Section 51.803, at the commencement of a class's senior year, with a
27 written notification of the student's eligibility with a detailed

1 explanation of the substance of Section 51.803.

2 (b) The commissioner shall adopt forms to use in providing
3 notice under Subsections (a)(2) and (4). In providing notice under
4 Subsection (a)(2) or (4), a school district shall use the
5 appropriate form adopted by the commissioner.

6 (c) The commissioner shall adopt procedures to ensure that,
7 as soon as practicable after this subsection becomes law, each
8 school district provides written notification of the substance of
9 Section 51.803, as amended by the 80th Legislature, Regular
10 Session, 2007, to each district student who, for the 2007-2008
11 school year, registers for one or more courses required for high
12 school graduation. The commissioner may adopt rules under this
13 subsection in the manner provided by law for emergency rules. Each
14 district shall comply with the procedures adopted by the
15 commissioner under this subsection. This subsection expires
16 September 1, 2008.

17 SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act to Section
18 51.803, Education Code, applies beginning with admissions to a
19 general academic teaching institution for the 2008-2009 academic
20 year. Admissions for an academic period preceding that academic
21 year are covered by the law in effect immediately before the
22 effective date of this Act, and the former law is continued in
23 effect for that purpose.

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