

By: Patrick, Dan

S.B. No. 1571

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to requiring a minimum SAT or ACT score as a prerequisite
3 to the automatic admission of an undergraduate student to certain
4 public institutions of higher education.

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

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

8 Sec. 51.803. AUTOMATIC ADMISSION: ALL INSTITUTIONS. (a)
9 Except as provided by Subsections (b), (c), and (d), each ~~Each~~
10 general academic teaching institution shall admit an applicant for
11 admission to the institution as an undergraduate student if the
12 applicant:

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

17 (2) ~~[the applicant]~~ graduated from:

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

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

1 (b) If a general academic teaching institution estimates,
2 based on admissions data for the current academic year, that the
3 number of applicants who will qualify for automatic admission to
4 the institution under Subsection (a) in the next academic year will
5 exceed 50 percent of the institution's first-time undergraduate
6 students in that academic year, the institution shall require, as
7 an additional requirement for automatic admission to the
8 institution in that academic year, that each applicant have
9 received a minimum score, established by the institution as
10 provided by Subsections (c) and (d), on the Scholastic Assessment
11 Test (SAT) or American College Test (ACT).

12 (c) Not later than September 1 preceding the earliest
13 application deadline for admission to the institution for the next
14 academic year, an institution to which Subsection (b) applies
15 shall:

16 (1) establish the minimum score that an applicant must
17 receive on the SAT or ACT as an additional requirement for automatic
18 admission under this section for that academic year; and

19 (2) widely publicize the required minimum scores in a
20 manner designed to notify high school students in this state.

21 (d) For purposes of Subsection (c)(1), the minimum SAT and
22 ACT scores must be established:

23 (1) based on data relating to the scores on those tests
24 of students who previously applied to or were admitted to the
25 institution; and

26 (2) at levels intended to result in the number of
27 students who qualify for automatic admission to and enroll in the

1 institution in that academic year will equal as nearly as possible
2 50 percent of the institution's first-time undergraduate students
3 in that academic year.

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

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

24 SECTION 2. Section 28.026, Education Code, is amended to
25 read as follows:

26 Sec. 28.026. NOTICE OF AUTOMATIC COLLEGE ADMISSION. (a)
27 The board of trustees of a school district shall require each high

1 school in the district to post appropriate signs in each
2 counselor's office, in each principal's office, and in each
3 administrative building indicating the substance of Section 51.803
4 regarding automatic college admission. To assist in the
5 dissemination of this information, the school district shall:

6 (1) require that each high school counselor and class
7 advisor be provided a detailed explanation of the substance of
8 Section 51.803;

9 (2) provide each district student, at the time the
10 student first registers for one or more classes required for high
11 school graduation, with a written notification of the substance of
12 Section 51.803;

13 (3) require that each high school counselor and senior
14 class advisor explain to eligible students the substance of Section
15 51.803; and

16 (4) [~~3~~] provide each eligible senior student under
17 Section 51.803, at the commencement of a class's senior year, with a
18 written notification of the student's eligibility with a detailed
19 explanation of the substance of Section 51.803.

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

24 (c) The commissioner shall adopt procedures to ensure that,
25 as soon as practicable after this subsection becomes law, each
26 school district provides written notification of the substance of
27 Section 51.803, as amended by the 80th Legislature, Regular

1 Session, 2007, to each district student who, for the 2007-2008
2 school year, registers for one or more courses required for high
3 school graduation. The commissioner may adopt rules under this
4 subsection in the manner provided by law for emergency rules. Each
5 district shall comply with the procedures adopted by the
6 commissioner under this subsection. This subsection expires
7 September 1, 2008.

8 SECTION 3. (a) The change in law made by this Act to Section
9 51.803, Education Code, applies beginning with admissions to a
10 general academic teaching institution for the 2008-2009 academic
11 year. Admissions for an academic period preceding that academic
12 year are covered by the law in effect immediately before the
13 effective date of this Act, and the former law is continued in
14 effect for that purpose.

15 (b) Notwithstanding Section 51.803(c), Education Code, as
16 amended by this Act, the September 1 deadline provided by that
17 section is extended to November 1 for 2007.

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