

By: Eissler

H.B. No. 1676

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the automatic admission of undergraduate students to a
3 general academic teaching institution that is a component
4 institution of a university system.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 51.803, Education Code, is amended by
7 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (b-1) and (b-2) to
8 read as follows:

9 (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b-1), 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 graduated with a grade point average in the top 10 percent
13 of the student's high school graduating class in one of the two
14 school years preceding the academic year for which the applicant is
15 applying for admission and:

16 (1) the applicant graduated from a public or private
17 high school in this state accredited by a generally recognized
18 accrediting organization or from a high school operated by the
19 United States Department of Defense;

20 (2) the applicant:

21 (A) successfully completed:

22 (i) at a public high school, the curriculum
23 requirements established under Section 28.025 for the recommended
24 or advanced high school program; or

1 (ii) at a high school to which Section
2 28.025 does not apply, a curriculum that is equivalent in content
3 and rigor to the recommended or advanced high school program; or

4 (B) satisfied ACT's College Readiness Benchmarks
5 on the ACT assessment applicable to the applicant or earned on the
6 SAT assessment a score of at least 1,500 out of 2,400 or the
7 equivalent; and

8 (3) if the applicant graduated from a high school
9 operated by the United States Department of Defense, the applicant
10 is a Texas resident under Section 54.052 or is entitled to pay
11 tuition fees at the rate provided for Texas residents under Section
12 54.058(d) for the term or semester to which admitted.

13 (b-1) The governing board of a university system that
14 includes more than one general academic teaching institution may
15 adopt a policy under which an application for admission under this
16 section to one or more of those institutions by a person eligible
17 for automatic admission under Subsection (a) is treated as an
18 application for admission as an undergraduate student to any
19 general academic teaching institution in the system. A university
20 system that adopts a policy under this subsection must offer an
21 eligible applicant admission to at least one component general
22 academic teaching institution of the system. A policy adopted
23 under this subsection must:

24 (1) include a process through which the university
25 system requests each eligible applicant to list in order of
26 preference the general academic teaching institutions in the system
27 to which the applicant prefers to be admitted under this section;

1 and

2 (2) require the system to make a reasonable effort to
3 offer the applicant admission to the institution of the applicant's
4 highest preference possible consistent with the enrollment needs of
5 the system.

6 (b-2) A university system that adopts a policy under
7 Subsection (b-1) shall provide to the board of trustees of each
8 school district in the state reasonable notice of the policy not
9 later than November 1 of the academic year immediately preceding
10 each academic year to which the policy applies.

11 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
12 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
13 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
14 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
15 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.