

By: Cohen

H.B. No. 4476

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to eligibility requirements for the tuition equalization grant program.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 61.2251(b), (c), and (e), Education Code, as added by Chapter 1230 (H.B. 1172), Acts of the 79th Legislature, Regular Session, 2005, are amended to read as follows:

(b) To be eligible for a tuition equalization grant in the first academic year in which the person receives the grant, a person must:

(1) be a Texas resident as defined by the coordinating board and meet, at a minimum, the resident requirements defined by law for Texas resident tuition in fully state-supported institutions of higher education;

(2) be enrolled in at least three-fourths of ~~for~~ a full course load conforming to an individual degree plan in an approved college or university;

(3) be required to pay more tuition than is required at a public college or university and be charged no less than the regular tuition required of all students enrolled at the institution;

(4) establish financial need in accordance with procedures and regulations of the coordinating board;

(5) not be a recipient of any form of athletic

1 scholarship; [~~and~~]

2 (6) make satisfactory academic progress toward a
3 degree or certificate as determined by the institution at which the
4 person is enrolled; and

5 (7) have complied with other requirements adopted by
6 the coordinating board under this subchapter.

7 (c) After qualifying for a tuition equalization grant under
8 Subsection (b), a person may receive a tuition equalization grant
9 in a subsequent academic year in which the person is enrolled at an
10 approved institution only if the person:

11 (1) meets the requirements of Subsection (b);

12 (2) completed at least:

13 (A) 24 semester credit hours in the person's most
14 recent full academic year, if the person is enrolled in an
15 undergraduate degree or certificate program; or

16 (B) 18 semester credit hours in the person's most
17 recent full academic year, if the person is enrolled in a graduate
18 or professional degree program; and

19 (3) has earned an overall grade point average of at
20 least 2.5 on a four-point scale or the equivalent on coursework
21 previously attempted at public or private institutions of higher
22 education.

23 (e) The coordinating board shall adopt rules to allow a
24 person who is otherwise eligible to receive a tuition equalization
25 grant, in the event of a hardship or for other good cause shown, to
26 receive a tuition equalization grant if the person does not:

27 (1) make satisfactory academic progress as required

1 under Subsection (b)(6);

2 (2) complete the semester credit hours required by
3 Subsection (c)(2);

4 (3) [~~(2)~~] maintain the grade point average required by
5 Subsection (c)(3); or

6 (4) [~~(3)~~] complete the person's certificate or degree
7 program within the period prescribed by Subsection (d).

8 SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act to Section
9 61.2251, Education Code, apply beginning with tuition equalization
10 grants awarded for the 2010-2011 academic year. A tuition
11 equalization grant awarded for an academic year before that
12 academic year is covered by the law in effect when the grant was
13 awarded, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

14 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
15 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
16 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
17 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
18 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.