

By: Howard of Travis

H.B. No. 1520

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the determination of student priority in awarding TEXAS  
3 grants.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 56.303, Education Code, is amended by  
6 amending Subsection (d) and adding Subsections (e), (f), (g), and  
7 (h) to read as follows:

8 (d) In determining who should receive a TEXAS grant, the  
9 coordinating board [~~and the eligible institutions~~] shall give  
10 highest priority to awarding TEXAS grants to students who  
11 demonstrate the greatest financial need.

12 (e) In determining who should receive a TEXAS grant, each  
13 eligible institution shall give highest priority to awarding TEXAS  
14 grants to students who:

15 (1) demonstrate the greatest financial need; and

16 (2) beginning with grants awarded for the 2015-2016  
17 academic year, meet the merit criteria adopted by the eligible  
18 institution under Subsection (f).

19 (f) Subject to coordinating board approval in accordance  
20 with rules adopted under Subsection (h), each eligible institution  
21 shall adopt merit criteria for determining student priority in  
22 awarding TEXAS grants. The merit criteria must promote the  
23 participation goals and targets of the most recent revision of  
24 "Closing the Gaps," the state's master plan for higher education,

1 and be based on at least two of the following achievement standards  
2 for each student:

3 (1) percentile rank according to high school  
4 graduating class standing based on grade point average;

5 (2) grade point average;

6 (3) completion of the advanced high school program or  
7 an international baccalaureate program;

8 (4) achievement of a score on the Scholastic  
9 Assessment Test (SAT) or the American College Test (ACT) that  
10 qualifies the student for an exemption under Section 51.3062(p); or

11 (5) demonstration of the performance standard for  
12 college readiness as provided by Section 39.024 on the Algebra II  
13 and English III end-of-course assessment instruments.

14 (g) Not later than November 1 of each even-numbered year  
15 beginning in 2016, each eligible institution shall submit to the  
16 lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,  
17 the presiding officer of the standing committee of each house of the  
18 legislature with primary jurisdiction over higher education, and  
19 the coordinating board a report addressing the impact of using the  
20 merit criteria adopted by the institution under Subsection (f) for  
21 determining priority in awarding TEXAS grants on the state's goal  
22 of closing college access and achievement gaps under "Closing the  
23 Gaps," the state's master plan for higher education.

24 (h) The coordinating board shall adopt rules for the  
25 approval and implementation of the use of merit criteria adopted by  
26 an eligible institution under Subsection (f).

27 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

H.B. No. 1520

1 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
2 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
3 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
4 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.