

1-1 By: Gonzales of Williamson H.B. No. 3577
1-2 (Senate Sponsor - Zaffirini)
1-3 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 26, 2011;
1-4 April 29, 2011, read first time and referred to Committee on Higher
1-5 Education; May 12, 2011, reported adversely, with favorable
1-6 Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0;
1-7 May 12, 2011, sent to printer.)

1-8 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 3577 By: Zaffirini

1-9 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-10 AN ACT

1-11 relating to priority consideration and eligibility for Texas
1-12 Educational Opportunity Grants, TEXAS grants, and other state
1-13 financial aid.

1-14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-15 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 56, Education Code, is
1-16 amended by adding Section 56.007 to read as follows:

1-17 Sec. 56.007. PRIORITY DEADLINE FOR STUDENT FINANCIAL
1-18 ASSISTANCE. (a) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board by
1-19 rule shall provide for a uniform priority application deadline for
1-20 applications for financial assistance for an academic year.

1-21 (b) The priority deadline may not serve as a determination
1-22 of eligibility for state financial assistance, but otherwise
1-23 eligible applicants who apply on or before the deadline shall be
1-24 given priority consideration for available state financial
1-25 assistance before other applicants.

1-26 (c) The coordinating board shall consult with financial aid
1-27 personnel at institutions of higher education in adopting rules
1-28 providing for the deadline required under this section.

1-29 (d) This section only applies to a general academic teaching
1-30 institution as defined by Section 61.003.

1-31 SECTION 2. Section 56.404(e), Education Code, is amended to
1-32 read as follows:

1-33 (e) A person may not receive a grant under this subchapter
1-34 and [~~if the person is eligible for~~] a TEXAS grant under Subchapter M
1-35 for the same semester or other term, regardless of whether the
1-36 person is otherwise eligible for both grants during that semester
1-37 or term. A person who but for this subsection would be awarded both
1-38 a grant under this subchapter and a TEXAS grant for the same
1-39 semester or other term is entitled to receive only the grant of the
1-40 greater amount.

1-41 SECTION 3. (a) The change in law made by Section 56.007,
1-42 Education Code, as added by this Act, applies beginning with
1-43 student financial assistance awarded for the 2013-2014 academic
1-44 year. State student financial assistance awarded for an academic
1-45 period before that academic year is covered by the law in effect
1-46 immediately before the effective date of this Act, and the former
1-47 law is continued in effect for that purpose.

1-48 (b) The change in law made by this Act relating to the
1-49 eligibility of a student for a Texas Educational Opportunity Grant
1-50 or a TEXAS grant applies beginning with grants awarded for the
1-51 2011-2012 academic year. Grants awarded for an academic year
1-52 before the 2011-2012 academic year are governed by the law in effect
1-53 immediately before the effective date of this Act, and the former
1-54 law is continued in effect for that purpose.

1-55 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
1-56 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
1-57 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
1-58 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
1-59 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

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