

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 851

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a uniform deadline for student financial assistance for public institutions of higher education other than public junior colleges.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 2. The change in law made by Section 56.007, Education Code, as added by this Act, applies beginning with student financial assistance awarded for the 2013-2014 academic

1 year. State student financial assistance awarded for an academic
2 period before that academic year is covered by the law in effect
3 immediately before the effective date of this Act, and the former
4 law is continued in effect for that purpose.

5 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect January 1, 2013.