

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 851

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to a uniform deadline for student financial assistance for  
3 public institutions of higher education other than public junior  
4 colleges.

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

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

8 Sec. 56.007. PRIORITY DEADLINE FOR STUDENT FINANCIAL  
9 ASSISTANCE. (a) The board by rule shall provide for a uniform  
10 priority application deadline for applications for financial  
11 assistance for an academic year.

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

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

20 (d) This section does not apply to a public junior college  
21 as defined by Section 61.003.

22 SECTION 2. The change in law made by Section 56.007,  
23 Education Code, as added by this Act, applies beginning with  
24 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.