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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FLOOR AMENDMENT NO. _____

BY: _____

Mike Villanueva

Amend C.S.S.B. No. 215 (house committee report) by adding the following appropriately numbered SECTIONS to the bill and renumbering subsequent SECTIONS of the bill accordingly:

SECTION _____. Section 56.304(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) To be eligible initially for a TEXAS grant, a person who graduated from high school before May 1, 2013, must:

(1) be a resident of this state as determined by coordinating board rules;

(2) meet one ~~[either]~~ of the following academic requirements:

(A) be a graduate of a public or accredited private high school in this state who graduated not earlier than the 1998-1999 school year and who completed the recommended or advanced high school curriculum established under Section 28.002 or 28.025 or its equivalent; ~~[or]~~

(B) have received an associate degree from a public or private institution of higher education not earlier than May 1, 2001; or

(C) be an undergraduate student who has:

(i) previously attended another institution of higher education;

(ii) completed at least 24 semester credit hours at any institution or institutions of higher education; and

(iii) earned an overall grade point average of at least 2.5 on a four-point scale or the equivalent on all course work previously attempted;

(3) meet financial need requirements as defined by the coordinating board;

(4) be enrolled in an undergraduate degree or certificate program at an eligible institution;

(5) be enrolled as:

(A) an entering undergraduate student for at least three-fourths of a full course load for an entering undergraduate student, as determined by the coordinating board, not later than the 16th month after the date of the person's graduation from high school; or

(B) an entering student for at least three-fourths of a full course load for an undergraduate student as determined by the coordinating board, not later than the 12th month after the month the person receives an associate degree from a public or private institution of higher education;

(6) have applied for any available financial aid or assistance; and

(7) comply with any additional nonacademic requirement adopted by the coordinating board under this subchapter.

SECTION 3. Section 56.3041, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 56.3041. INITIAL ELIGIBILITY OF PERSON GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL ON OR AFTER MAY 1, 2013, AND ENROLLING IN A GENERAL ACADEMIC TEACHING INSTITUTION. To ~~[Notwithstanding Section 56.304(a), to]~~ be eligible initially for a TEXAS grant, a person graduating from high school on or after May 1, 2013, and enrolling in a general academic teaching institution must:

(1) be a resident of this state as determined by coordinating board rules;

(2) meet the academic requirements prescribed by Paragraph (A), (B), ~~or~~ (C), or (D) as follows:

(A) be a graduate of a public or accredited private high school in this state who completed the recommended high school program established under Section 28.025 or its equivalent and have accomplished any two or more of the following:

(i) graduation under the advanced high school program established under Section 28.025 or its equivalent, successful completion of the course requirements of the international baccalaureate diploma program, or earning of the equivalent of at least 12 semester credit hours of college credit in high school through courses described in Sections 28.009(a) (1), (2), and (3);

(ii) satisfaction of the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) college readiness benchmarks prescribed by the coordinating board under Section 51.3062(f) on any assessment instrument designated by the coordinating board under Section 51.3062(c) ~~or (e)~~ or qualification for an exemption as described by Section 51.3062(p), (q), or (q-1);

(iii) graduation in the top one-third of the person's high school graduating class or graduation from high school with a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a four-point scale or the equivalent; or

(iv) completion for high school credit of at least one advanced mathematics course following the successful completion of an Algebra II course, as permitted by Section 28.025(b-3), or at least one advanced career and technical course, as permitted by Section 28.025(b-2);

(B) have received an associate degree from a public

or private institution of higher education; ~~[or]~~

(C) be an undergraduate student who has:

(i) previously attended another institution of higher education;

(ii) completed at least 24 semester credit hours at any institution or institutions of higher education; and

(iii) earned an overall grade point average of at least 2.5 on a four-point scale or the equivalent on all course work previously attempted; or

(D) if sufficient money is available, meet the eligibility criteria adopted by the coordinating board ~~[described by Section 56.304(a)(2)(A)]~~;

(3) meet financial need requirements established by the coordinating board;

(4) be enrolled in an undergraduate degree or certificate program at the general academic teaching institution;

(5) except as provided under rules adopted under Section 56.304(h), be enrolled as:

(A) an entering undergraduate student for at least three-fourths of a full course load, as determined by the coordinating board, not later than the 16th month after the calendar month in which the person graduated from high school;

(B) an entering undergraduate student who entered military service not later than the first anniversary of the date the person graduated from high school and who enrolled for at least three-fourths of a full course load, as determined by the coordinating board, at the general academic teaching institution not later than 12 months after being honorably discharged from military service; ~~[or]~~

(C) an [~~a continuing~~] undergraduate student for at least three-fourths of a full course load, as determined by the coordinating board, not later than the 12th month after the calendar month in which the person received an associate degree from a public or private institution of higher education; or

(D) an undergraduate student described by Subdivision (2)(C) who has never previously received a TEXAS grant;

(6) have applied for any available financial aid or assistance; and

(7) comply with any additional nonacademic requirements adopted by the coordinating board under this subchapter.

SECTION ____ . This Act applies beginning with grants awarded for the 2015-2016 academic year, but does not affect the amount of or entitlement to any grant awarded before the effective date of this Act.