

By: Alonzo

H.B. No. 539

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to repealing certain limitations on the automatic
3 admission of undergraduate students to general academic teaching
4 institutions.

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

6 SECTION 1. The following laws are repealed:

7 (1) Sections 51.803(a-1), (a-2), (a-3), (a-4), (a-5),
8 (a-6), (j), (k), and (l), Education Code; and

9 (2) Section 56.485, Education Code.

10 SECTION 2. Section 51.803(a), Education Code, is amended to
11 read as follows:

12 (a) Each [~~Subject to Subsection (a-1), each~~] general
13 academic teaching institution shall admit an applicant for
14 admission to the institution as an undergraduate student if the
15 applicant graduated with a grade point average in the top 10 percent
16 of the student's high school graduating class in one of the two
17 school years preceding the academic year for which the applicant is
18 applying for admission and:

19 (1) the applicant graduated from a public or private
20 high school in this state accredited by a generally recognized
21 accrediting organization or from a high school operated by the
22 United States Department of Defense;

23 (2) the applicant:

24 (A) successfully completed:

1 (i) at a public high school, the curriculum
2 requirements established under Section 28.025 for the recommended
3 or advanced high school program; or

4 (ii) at a high school to which Section
5 28.025 does not apply, a curriculum that is equivalent in content
6 and rigor to the recommended or advanced high school program; or

7 (B) satisfied ACT's College Readiness Benchmarks
8 on the ACT assessment applicable to the applicant or earned on the
9 SAT assessment a score of at least 1,500 out of 2,400 or the
10 equivalent; and

11 (3) if the applicant graduated from a high school
12 operated by the United States Department of Defense, the applicant
13 is a Texas resident under Section 54.052 or is entitled to pay
14 tuition fees at the rate provided for Texas residents under Section
15 54.241(d) [~~54.058(d)~~] for the term or semester to which admitted.

16 SECTION 3. Section 56.484, Education Code, is amended to
17 read as follows:

18 Sec. 56.484. INITIAL ELIGIBILITY FOR SCHOLARSHIP. To be
19 eligible for a scholarship under this subchapter, a student must:

20 (1) have graduated from a public or accredited private
21 high school in this state while ranked in the top 10 percent of the
22 student's graduating class, subject to Section 56.487(b);

23 (2) have completed the recommended or advanced high
24 school curriculum established under Section 28.025 or its
25 equivalent;

26 (3) have applied for admission as a first-time
27 freshman student for the 2010-2011 academic year or a subsequent

1 academic year to an institution of higher education [~~that has~~
2 ~~elected to offer admissions for that academic year to applicants as~~
3 ~~provided by Section 51.803(a-1)];~~

4 (4) enroll as a first-time freshman student in an
5 institution of higher education not later than the 16th month after
6 the date of the student's high school graduation;

7 (5) have been awarded a TEXAS grant under Subchapter M
8 for the same semester or other academic term for which the
9 scholarship will be awarded;

10 (6) be a Texas resident under Section 54.052; and

11 (7) comply with any other eligibility requirements
12 established by coordinating board rule.

13 SECTION 4. The changes in law made by this Act to Section
14 51.803, Education Code, apply beginning with admissions to general
15 academic teaching institutions for the 2014-2015 academic year.
16 Admissions to a general academic teaching institution before that
17 academic year are governed by the law in effect before the effective
18 date of this Act, and the former law is continued in effect for that
19 purpose.

20 SECTION 5. The changes in law made by this Act to Subchapter
21 R, Chapter 56, Education Code, apply beginning with scholarships
22 awarded under that subchapter for the 2014-2015 academic year.
23 Scholarships awarded for an academic period before that academic
24 year are governed by the law in effect before the effective date of
25 this Act, and the former law is continued in effect for that
26 purpose.

27 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.