

By: Larson

H.B. No. 3492

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to eliminating the automatic admission of students to
3 certain public institutions of higher education and scholarships
4 for certain students who qualify for automatic admission.

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

6 SECTION 1. The heading to Section 51.805, Education Code,
7 is amended to read as follows:

8 Sec. 51.805. ELIGIBILITY TO APPLY FOR ADMISSION; FACTORS
9 CONSIDERED IN [OTHER] ADMISSIONS.

10 SECTION 2. Section 51.805, Education Code, is amended by
11 amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsections (a-1) and
12 (a-2) to read as follows:

13 (a) A graduating high school student [~~who does not qualify~~
14 ~~for admission under Section 51.803 or 51.804~~] may apply to any
15 general academic teaching institution if:

16 (1) the student [~~satisfies the requirements of~~]:

17 (A) successfully completed:

18 (i) at a public high school, the curriculum
19 requirements established under Section 28.025 for the recommended
20 or advanced high school program; or

21 (ii) at a high school to which Section
22 28.025 does not apply, including a high school outside this state, a
23 curriculum that is equivalent in content and rigor to the
24 recommended or advanced high school program; or

1 (B) satisfied the ACT College Readiness
2 Benchmarks on the ACT assessment applicable to the student or
3 earned on the SAT assessment a score of at least 1,500 out of 2,400
4 or the equivalent; and

5 (2) the student provides a high school transcript or
6 diploma that satisfies the requirements of Subsection (a-2)
7 ~~[(1) Section 51.803(a)(2)(A) or 51.803(b), as applicable to the~~
8 ~~student, or Section 51.803(a)(2)(B); and~~

9 ~~[(2) Sections 51.803(c)(2) and 51.803(d)].~~

10 (a-1) A student who does not satisfy the curriculum
11 requirements prescribed by Subsection (a)(1)(A)(i) or (ii) is
12 considered to have satisfied those requirements if the student
13 completed the portion of the recommended or advanced curriculum or
14 of the curriculum equivalent in content and rigor, as applicable,
15 that was available to the student but was unable to complete the
16 remainder of the curriculum solely because courses necessary to
17 complete the remainder were unavailable to the student at the
18 appropriate times in the student's high school career as a result of
19 course scheduling, lack of enrollment capacity, or another cause
20 not within the student's control.

21 (a-2) For purposes of Subsection (a)(1)(A), a student's
22 official transcript or diploma must, not later than the end of the
23 student's junior year, indicate:

24 (1) whether the student has satisfied or is on
25 schedule to satisfy the requirements of Subsection (a)(1)(A)(i) or
26 (ii), as applicable; or

27 (2) if Subsection (a-1) applies to the student,

1 whether the student has completed the portion of the recommended or
2 advanced curriculum or of the curriculum equivalent in content and
3 rigor, as applicable, that was available to the student.

4 (b) [~~The general academic teaching institution, after~~
5 ~~admitting students under Sections 51.803 and 51.804, shall admit~~
6 ~~other applicants for admission as undergraduate students.~~] It is
7 the intent of the legislature that all institutions of higher
8 education pursue academic excellence by considering students'
9 academic achievements in decisions related to admissions. Because
10 of changing demographic trends, diversity, and population
11 increases in the state, each general academic teaching institution
12 shall also consider all of, any of, or a combination of the
13 following socioeconomic indicators or factors in making first-time
14 freshman admissions decisions:

15 (1) the applicant's academic record;
16 (2) the socioeconomic background of the applicant,
17 including the percentage by which the applicant's family is above
18 or below any recognized measure of poverty, the applicant's
19 household income, and the applicant's parents' level of education;

20 (3) whether the applicant would be the first
21 generation of the applicant's family to attend or graduate from an
22 institution of higher education;

23 (4) whether the applicant has bilingual proficiency;

24 (5) the financial status of the applicant's school
25 district;

26 (6) the performance level of the applicant's school as
27 determined by the school accountability criteria used by the Texas

1 Education Agency;

2 (7) the applicant's responsibilities while attending
3 school, including whether the applicant has been employed, whether
4 the applicant has helped to raise children, or other similar
5 factors;

6 (8) the applicant's region of residence;

7 (9) whether the applicant is a resident of a rural or
8 urban area or a resident of a central city or suburban area in the
9 state;

10 (10) the applicant's performance on standardized
11 tests;

12 (11) the applicant's performance on standardized tests
13 in comparison with that of other students from similar
14 socioeconomic backgrounds;

15 (12) whether the applicant attended any school while
16 the school was under a court-ordered desegregation plan;

17 (13) the applicant's involvement in community
18 activities;

19 (14) the applicant's extracurricular activities;

20 (15) the applicant's commitment to a particular field
21 of study;

22 (16) the applicant's personal interview;

23 (17) the applicant's admission to a comparable
24 accredited out-of-state institution; and

25 (18) any other consideration the institution
26 considers necessary to accomplish the institution's stated
27 mission.

1 SECTION 3. Section 29.911(b), Education Code, is amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (b) During the designated week, each middle school, junior
4 high school, and high school shall provide students with
5 comprehensive grade-appropriate information regarding the pursuit
6 of higher education. The information provided must include
7 information regarding:

8 (1) higher education options available to students;

9 (2) standard admission requirements for institutions
10 of higher education, including:

11 (A) overall high school grade point average;

12 (B) required curriculum;

13 (C) college readiness standards and expectations
14 as determined under Section 28.008; and

15 (D) scores necessary on generally recognized
16 tests or assessment instruments used in admissions determinations,
17 including the Scholastic Assessment Test and the American College
18 Test; and

19 ~~(3) [automatic admission of certain students to~~
20 ~~general academic teaching institutions as provided by Section~~
21 ~~51.803, and~~

22 ~~[(4)]~~ financial aid availability and requirements,
23 including the financial aid information provided by counselors
24 under Section 33.007(b).

25 SECTION 4. Section 33.007(b), Education Code, is amended to
26 read as follows:

27 (b) During the first school year a student is enrolled in a

1 high school or at the high school level in an open-enrollment
2 charter school, and again during a student's senior year, a
3 counselor shall provide information about higher education to the
4 student and the student's parent or guardian. The information must
5 include information regarding:

6 (1) the importance of higher education;

7 (2) the advantages of completing the recommended or
8 advanced high school program adopted under Section 28.025(a);

9 (3) the disadvantages of taking courses to prepare for
10 a high school equivalency examination relative to the benefits of
11 taking courses leading to a high school diploma;

12 (4) financial aid eligibility;

13 (5) instruction on how to apply for federal financial
14 aid;

15 (6) the center for financial aid information
16 established under Section 61.0776;

17 ~~(7) [the automatic admission of certain students to~~
18 ~~general academic teaching institutions as provided by Section~~
19 ~~51.803,~~

20 ~~[(8)]~~ the eligibility and academic performance
21 requirements for the TEXAS Grant as provided by Subchapter M,
22 Chapter 56; and

23 (8) ~~[(9)]~~ the availability of programs in the district
24 under which a student may earn college credit, including advanced
25 placement programs, dual credit programs, joint high school and
26 college credit programs, and international baccalaureate programs.

27 SECTION 5. Section 51.4032, Education Code, is amended to

1 read as follows:

2 Sec. 51.4032. ANNUAL REPORT OF PARTICIPATION IN HIGHER
3 EDUCATION. Not later than December 1 of each year and in the form
4 prescribed by the coordinating board, each general academic
5 teaching institution and medical and dental unit as defined
6 in Section 61.003 shall provide to the Texas Higher Education
7 Coordinating Board and shall publish on the institution's website a
8 report describing the composition of the institution's entering
9 class of students. The report must include a demographic breakdown
10 of the class, including a breakdown by race, ethnicity, economic
11 status, and high school class standing. A report submitted by a
12 general academic teaching institution or medical and dental unit as
13 defined in Section 61.003 must include [~~separate demographic~~
14 ~~breakdowns of the students admitted under Sections 51.803, 51.804,~~
15 ~~and 51.805 and~~] a description of any plans, policies, or programs
16 developed or implemented by the institution to recruit and retain
17 students from underrepresented groups such as racial or ethnic
18 minority groups.

19 SECTION 6. Section 51.842(a), Education Code, is amended to
20 read as follows:

21 (a) A graduate or professional program of a general academic
22 teaching institution or medical or dental unit may consider the
23 following factors in making an admissions or scholarship decision
24 for admissions into or competitive scholarships for the graduate or
25 professional program:

26 (1) an applicant's academic record as a high school
27 student and undergraduate student;

1 (2) the socioeconomic background of the applicant
2 while the applicant attended elementary and secondary school and
3 was an undergraduate student, including any change in that
4 background;

5 (3) whether the applicant would be the first
6 generation of the applicant's family to attend or graduate from an
7 undergraduate program or from a graduate or professional program;

8 (4) whether the applicant has multilingual
9 proficiency;

10 (5) the applicant's responsibilities while attending
11 elementary and secondary school and as an undergraduate student,
12 including whether the applicant was employed, whether the applicant
13 helped to raise children, and other similar factors;

14 (6) to achieve geographic diversity, the applicant's
15 region of residence at the time of application and, if the applicant
16 graduated from a public high school in this state within the
17 preceding 20 years, the region in which the applicant's school
18 district is located;

19 (7) the applicant's involvement in community
20 activities;

21 (8) the applicant's demonstrated commitment to a
22 particular field of study;

23 (9) for admission into a professional program, the
24 current comparative availability of members of that profession in
25 the applicant's region of residence while the applicant attended
26 elementary and secondary school; and

27 (10) ~~whether the applicant was automatically~~

1 ~~admitted to a general academic teaching institution as an~~
2 ~~undergraduate student under Section 51.803; and~~

3 [~~11~~] the applicant's personal interview.

4 SECTION 7. The following provisions of the Education Code
5 are repealed:

6 (1) Sections 28.026, 33.007(c), 51.803, 51.8035,
7 51.804, and 51.8045; and

8 (2) Subchapter R, Chapter 56.

9 SECTION 8. The changes in law made by this Act to Subchapter
10 U, Chapter 51, Education Code, apply beginning with admissions to
11 an institution of higher education for the 2014-2015 academic year.
12 Admissions to an institution of higher education for an academic
13 year before that academic year are governed by the law in effect
14 immediately before the effective date of this Act, and the former
15 law is continued in effect for that purpose.

16 SECTION 9. The repeal by this Act of Subchapter R, Chapter
17 56, Education Code, does not affect a student initially awarded a
18 scholarship under that subchapter for a semester or other academic
19 term before the effective date of this Act. A student who initially
20 receives a scholarship for a semester or other academic term before
21 that date may continue to receive a scholarship under Subchapter R,
22 Chapter 56, Education Code, as that subchapter existed immediately
23 before the effective date of this Act, to the extent funds are
24 available for that purpose, as long as the student remains eligible
25 for a scholarship under the former law. The Texas Higher Education
26 Coordinating Board shall adopt rules to administer this section and
27 shall notify each student who receives a scholarship in the

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1 2013-2014 academic year of the provisions of this section.

2 SECTION 10. This Act takes effect January 1, 2014.