

By: Capriglione

H.B. No. 2740

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the automatic admission of students to general academic teaching institutions.

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

SECTION 1. Section 51.803(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

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

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

(2) the applicant:

(A) successfully completed:

(i) at a public high school, the curriculum requirements established under Section 28.025 for the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation high school program; or

(ii) at a high school to which Section

1 28.025 does not apply, a curriculum that is equivalent in content
2 and rigor to the distinguished level of achievement under the
3 foundation high school program; or

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

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

13 SECTION 2. Section 28.02121(a), Education Code, is amended
14 to read as follows:

15 (a) The agency, in consultation with the Texas Workforce
16 Commission and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, shall
17 prepare and make available to each school district in English and
18 Spanish information that explains the advantages of the
19 distinguished level of achievement described by Section
20 28.025(b-15) and each endorsement described by Section
21 28.025(c-1). The information must contain an explanation:

22 (1) concerning the benefits of choosing a high school
23 personal graduation plan that includes the distinguished level of
24 achievement under the foundation high school program and includes
25 one or more endorsements to enable the student to achieve a class
26 rank that qualifies the student for automatic admission under
27 Section 51.803(a) [~~in the top 10 percent for students at the~~

1 ~~campus~~]; and

2 (2) that encourages parents, to the greatest extent
3 practicable, to have the student choose a high school personal
4 graduation plan described by Subdivision (1).

5 SECTION 3. Section 28.026(a), Education Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (a) The board of trustees of a school district and the
8 governing body of each open-enrollment charter school that provides
9 a high school shall require each high school in the district or
10 provided by the charter school, as applicable, to post appropriate
11 signs in each school counselor's office, in each principal's
12 office, and in each administrative building indicating the
13 substance of Section 51.803 regarding automatic college admission
14 and stating the curriculum requirements for financial aid
15 authorized under Title 3. To assist in the dissemination of that
16 information, the district or charter school shall:

17 (1) require that each school counselor and class
18 advisor at a high school be provided a detailed explanation of the
19 substance of Section 51.803 and the curriculum requirements for
20 financial aid authorized under Title 3;

21 (2) provide each district or school student, at the
22 time the student first registers for one or more classes required
23 for high school graduation, with a written notification, including
24 a detailed explanation in plain language, of the substance of
25 Section 51.803, the curriculum requirements for financial aid
26 authorized under Title 3, and the benefits of completing the
27 requirements for that automatic admission and financial aid;

1 eligible for a scholarship under this subchapter, a student must:

2 (1) have graduated from a public or accredited private
3 high school in this state while ranked:

4 (A) in the top 10 percent of the student's
5 graduating class, if the student graduated in a school year before
6 the 2015-2016 school year, subject to Section 56.487(b); or

7 (B) in the top eight percent of the student's
8 graduating class, if the student graduated in the 2015-2016 school
9 year or a subsequent school year, subject to Section 56.487(b);

10 (2) have completed the recommended or advanced high
11 school curriculum established under Section 28.025 or its
12 equivalent;

13 (3) have applied for admission as a first-time
14 freshman student for an ~~[the 2010-2011]~~ academic year ~~[or a~~
15 ~~subsequent academic year]~~ to an institution of higher education
16 that has elected to offer admissions for that academic year to
17 applicants as provided by Section 51.803(a-1);

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

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

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

25 (7) comply with any other eligibility requirements
26 established by coordinating board rule.

27 SECTION 7. Section 61.0902(b), Education Code, is amended

1 to read as follows:

2 (b) Not later than the next November 1 following the
3 completion of an academic year, each general academic teaching
4 institution shall provide to the board one or more reports
5 containing data related to:

6 (1) the qualifications of the entering freshman class
7 for the academic year covered by the report, including:

8 (A) the average Texas Academic Skills Program
9 Test scores of the class;

10 (B) the average scores of the class on each
11 generally recognized test or assessment used in college and
12 university undergraduate admissions, including the Scholastic
13 Assessment Test and the American College Test;

14 (C) the range of scores of the class from the 25th
15 to the 75th percentile on each generally recognized test or
16 assessment used in college and university undergraduate
17 admissions, including the Scholastic Assessment Test and the
18 American College Test;

19 (D) the overall grade point average of the class
20 for the academic year covered by the report;

21 (E) the number of students in the class who
22 graduated from [~~in the top 10 percent of the student's~~] high school
23 with a grade point average that would qualify the student for
24 automatic admission under Section 51.803(a) [~~graduating class~~];
25 and

26 (F) enrollment percentages by ethnicity; and

27 (2) student performance and institution efficiency,

1 including:

2 (A) the retention rate of full-time students
3 after the completion of one academic year at the institution;

4 (B) the percentage of full-time degree-seeking
5 undergraduate students who earn a baccalaureate degree before the
6 sixth anniversary of the date of the student's first enrollment at
7 the institution;

8 (C) the percentage of lower-division semester
9 credit hours taught by tenured or tenure-track faculty;

10 (D) the percentage of undergraduate classes with
11 fewer than 20 students;

12 (E) the percentage of undergraduate classes with
13 more than 50 students;

14 (F) the student-to-faculty ratio for
15 undergraduate students;

16 (G) the percentage of students receiving
17 financial aid;

18 (H) the average cost of tuition and fees for an
19 undergraduate student enrolled for 12 semester credit hours;

20 (I) the average cost of on-campus room and board
21 for an academic year, excluding summer sessions;

22 (J) the number of disciplines in which master's
23 degrees are offered;

24 (K) the number of disciplines in which doctoral
25 degrees are offered;

26 (L) a description of any departments, schools, or
27 certificate or degree programs of the institution that have a

1 statewide or national reputation for excellence; and

2 (M) statistics regarding job placement rates for
3 students awarded certificates or degrees by the institution.

4 SECTION 8. (a) The change in law made by this Act to Section
5 51.803(a), Education Code, applies beginning with admission to a
6 general academic teaching institution for the 2016-2017 academic
7 year, except as provided by Subsection (b) of this section.
8 Admissions to a general academic teaching institution for an
9 academic period before that academic year are governed by the law in
10 effect immediately before the effective date of this Act, and the
11 former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

12 (b) For purposes of admissions to a general academic
13 teaching institution for the 2016-2017 academic year, Section
14 51.803(a), as that section existed on January 1, 2015, applies to an
15 applicant for admission who graduated from high school in the
16 2014-2015 school year.

17 SECTION 9. The changes in law made by this Act to Sections
18 28.02121(a) and 28.026(a), Education Code, apply beginning with the
19 2015-2016 school year.

20 SECTION 10. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of
21 this section, this Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

22 (b) Section 7 of this Act takes effect January 1, 2016.