

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 33

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to eligibility for a TEXAS Grant and to administration of the TEXAS grant program.

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

SECTION 1. Section 56.304, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(d) A person may not receive a TEXAS grant for more than the lesser of:

(1) 135~~150~~ semester credit hours or the equivalent;

or

(2) 15 semester credit hours or the equivalent in excess of the degree requirements of the degree the person is seeking.

SECTION 2. Section 56.3041, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) to read as follows:

(a) To be eligible initially for a TEXAS grant, a person graduating from high school on or after May 1, 2013, and enrolling in an eligible 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), (C), or (D) as follows:

(A) be a graduate of a public or accredited private high school in this state who completed the foundation high

1 school program established under Section 28.025 or its equivalent
2 and have accomplished any two or more of the following:

3 (i) successful completion of the course
4 requirements of the international baccalaureate diploma program or
5 earning of the equivalent of at least 12 semester credit hours of
6 college credit in high school through courses described in Sections
7 28.009(a)(1), (2), and (3);

8 (ii) satisfaction of the Texas Success
9 Initiative (TSI) college readiness benchmarks prescribed by the
10 coordinating board under Section 51.3062(f) on any assessment
11 instrument designated by the coordinating board under Section
12 51.3062(c) or qualification for an exemption as described by
13 Section 51.3062(p), (q), or (q-1);

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

18 (iv) completion for high school credit of
19 at least one advanced mathematics course following the successful
20 completion of an Algebra II course or at least one advanced career
21 and technical or technology applications course;

22 (B) have received an associate degree from a
23 public or private institution of higher education;

24 (C) be an undergraduate student who has:

25 (i) previously attended another
26 institution of higher education;

27 (ii) received an initial Texas Educational

1 Opportunity Grant under Subchapter P for the 2014 fall semester or a
2 subsequent academic term;

3 (iii) completed at least 30~~[24]~~ semester
4 credit hours at any institution or institutions of higher
5 education; and

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

9 (D) if sufficient money is available, meet the
10 eligibility criteria described by Section 56.304(a)(2)(A);

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

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

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

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

21 (B) an entering undergraduate student who
22 entered military service not later than the first anniversary of
23 the date the person graduated from high school and who enrolled for
24 at least three-fourths of a full course load, as determined by the
25 coordinating board, at the eligible institution not later than 12
26 months after being honorably discharged from military service;

27 (C) a continuing undergraduate student for at

1 least three-fourths of a full course load, as determined by the
2 coordinating board, not later than the 12th month after the
3 calendar month in which the person received an associate degree
4 from a public or private institution of higher education; or

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

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

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

12 SECTION 3. Section 56.305, Education Code, is amended by
13 adding Subsection (e-2) to read as follows:

14 (e-2) For purposes of this section, a person who is
15 initially awarded a TEXAS grant during or after the 2017 fall
16 semester makes satisfactory academic progress toward an
17 undergraduate degree or certificate only if:

18 (1) in the person's first academic year the person
19 meets the satisfactory academic progress requirements of the
20 institution at which the person is enrolled; and

21 (2) in a subsequent academic year, the person:

22 (A) completed at least 30 semester credit hours
23 in the student's most recent academic year; and

24 (B) has earned an overall grade point average of
25 at least 2.5 on a four-point scale or the equivalent on coursework
26 previously attempted at institutions of higher education.

27 SECTION 4. Section 56.307, Education Code, is amended by

1 amending Subsection (f), adding Subsection (f-1), and amending
2 Subsection (j) to read as follows:

3 (f) The amount of a TEXAS grant may not be reduced by any
4 gift aid for which the person receiving the grant is eligible, other
5 than a federal Pell Grant, unless the total amount of a person's
6 grant plus any gift aid received exceeds the student's financial
7 need.

8 (f-1) The amount of a TEXAS grant may not exceed the
9 student's total cost of tuition and fees, plus a book stipend.

10 (j) A public institution of higher education shall use other
11 available sources of financial aid, other than a loan or
12 participation in a work-study program, to cover any difference in
13 the amount of a TEXAS grant awarded to the student and the actual
14 amount of tuition and required fees at the institution if the
15 difference results from:

16 (1) a reduction in the amount of a TEXAS grant under
17 Subsection (i-1); or

18 (2) a deficiency in the amount of the grant as
19 established under Subsection (a) or (e), as applicable, to cover
20 the full amount of tuition and required fees charged to the student
21 by the institution.

22 SECTION 5. The change in law made by this Act applies
23 beginning with initial or subsequent TEXAS grants awarded for the
24 2017 fall semester. Initial or subsequent TEXAS grants awarded for
25 a semester or term before the 2017 fall semester are governed by the
26 applicable law in effect immediately before the effective date of
27 this Act, and the former law is continued in effect for that

1 purpose.

2 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
6 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.