

By: Burton

S.B. No. 383

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to eligibility for certain higher education grant programs.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter M, Chapter 56, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 56.3031 to read as follows:

Sec. 56.3031. FINANCIAL NEED. (a) The coordinating board by rule shall establish financial need requirements for applicants to demonstrate eligibility to receive initial or subsequent TEXAS grants under this subchapter.

(b) The rules must require each applicant to demonstrate eligibility for federal financial aid but may not require the applicant to meet a financial need requirement applicable to a particular federal financial aid program.

(c) Section 56.3045(b)(2) does not apply to the eligibility requirement described by Subsection (b).

SECTION 2. 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 either of the following academic requirements:

1 (A) be a graduate of a public or accredited  
2 private high school in this state who graduated not earlier than the  
3 1998-1999 school year and who completed the recommended or advanced  
4 high school curriculum established under Section 28.002 or 28.025  
5 or its equivalent; or

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

9 (3) meet financial need requirements established [~~as~~  
10 ~~defined~~] by the coordinating board under Section 56.3031;

11 (4) be enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program at  
12 an eligible institution;

13 (5) be enrolled as:

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

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

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

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

1 subchapter.

2 SECTION 3. Section 56.3041(a), Education Code, is amended  
3 to read as follows:

4 (a) To be eligible initially for a TEXAS grant, a person  
5 graduating from high school on or after May 1, 2013, and enrolling  
6 in an eligible institution must:

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

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

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

15 (i) successful completion of the course  
16 requirements of the international baccalaureate diploma program or  
17 earning of the equivalent of at least 12 semester credit hours of  
18 college credit in high school through courses described in Sections  
19 28.009(a)(1), (2), and (3);

20 (ii) satisfaction of the Texas Success  
21 Initiative (TSI) college readiness benchmarks prescribed by the  
22 coordinating board under Section 51.3062(f) on any assessment  
23 instrument designated by the coordinating board under Section  
24 51.3062(c) or qualification for an exemption as described by  
25 Section 51.3062(p), (q), or (q-1);

26 (iii) graduation in the top one-third of  
27 the person's high school graduating class or graduation from high

1 school with a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a four-point  
2 scale or the equivalent; or

3 (iv) completion for high school credit of  
4 at least one advanced mathematics course following the successful  
5 completion of an Algebra II course or at least one advanced career  
6 and technical or technology applications course;

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

9 (C) be an undergraduate student who has:

10 (i) previously attended another  
11 institution of higher education;

12 (ii) received an initial Texas Educational  
13 Opportunity Grant under Subchapter P for the 2014 fall semester or a  
14 subsequent academic term;

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

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

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

22 (3) meet financial need requirements established by  
23 the coordinating board under Section 56.3031;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 SECTION 4. Section 56.305(a), Education Code, is amended to  
24 read as follows:

25 (a) After initially qualifying for a TEXAS grant, a person  
26 may continue to receive a TEXAS grant during each semester or term  
27 in which the person is enrolled at an eligible institution only if

1 the person:

2 (1) meets financial need requirements as established  
3 ~~[defined]~~ by the coordinating board under Section 56.3031;

4 (2) is enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program at  
5 an eligible institution;

6 (3) is enrolled for at least three-fourths of a full  
7 course load for an undergraduate student, as determined by the  
8 coordinating board;

9 (4) makes satisfactory academic progress toward a  
10 baccalaureate degree; and

11 (5) complies with any additional nonacademic  
12 requirement adopted by the coordinating board.

13 SECTION 5. Subchapter D, Chapter 56, Education Code, is  
14 amended by adding Section 56.4031 to read as follows:

15 Sec. 56.4031. FINANCIAL NEED. (a) The coordinating board  
16 by rule shall establish financial need requirements for applicants  
17 to demonstrate eligibility to receive initial or subsequent grants  
18 under this subchapter.

19 (b) The rules must require each applicant to demonstrate  
20 eligibility for federal financial aid but may not require the  
21 applicant to meet a financial need requirement applicable to a  
22 particular federal financial aid program.

23 SECTION 6. Section 56.404(a), Education Code, is amended to  
24 read as follows:

25 (a) To be eligible initially for a grant under the grant  
26 program, a person must:

27 (1) be a resident of this state as determined by

1 coordinating board rules;

2 (2) meet financial need requirements established [~~as~~  
3 ~~defined~~] by the coordinating board under Section 56.4031;

4 (3) be enrolled in an associate degree or certificate  
5 program at an eligible institution;

6 (4) be enrolled as an entering student for at least  
7 one-half of a full course load for an entering student in the  
8 associate degree or certificate program, as determined by the  
9 coordinating board;

10 (5) have applied for any available financial aid or  
11 assistance; and

12 (6) comply with any additional nonacademic  
13 requirement adopted by the coordinating board under this  
14 subchapter.

15 SECTION 7. Section 56.405(a), Education Code, is amended to  
16 read as follows:

17 (a) After initially qualifying for a grant under this  
18 subchapter, a person may continue to receive a grant under this  
19 subchapter during each semester or term in which the person is  
20 enrolled at an eligible institution only if the person:

21 (1) meets financial need requirements established [~~as~~  
22 ~~defined~~] by the coordinating board under Section 56.4031;

23 (2) is enrolled in an associate degree or certificate  
24 program at an eligible institution;

25 (3) is enrolled for at least one-half of a full course  
26 load for a student in an associate degree or certificate program, as  
27 determined by the coordinating board;

1           (4) makes satisfactory academic progress toward an  
2 associate degree or certificate; and

3           (5) complies with any additional nonacademic  
4 requirement adopted by the coordinating board.

5           SECTION 8. The changes in law made by this Act in adding  
6 Sections 56.3031 and 56.4031, Education Code, apply beginning with  
7 initial or subsequent grants awarded for the 2017 fall semester.  
8 Initial or subsequent grants awarded for a semester or term before  
9 the 2017 fall semester are governed by the applicable law in effect  
10 immediately before the effective date of this Act, and the former  
11 law is continued in effect for that purpose.

12           SECTION 9. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
13 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
14 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
15 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
16 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.