

By: Buckingham, West

S.B. No. 1813

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to common admission application forms for institutions of higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Section 51.761, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 51.761. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter, "board," "general academic teaching institution," "governing board," "institution of higher education," "medical and dental unit," "public state college," "public technical institute," "private or independent institution of higher education," and "university system" have the meanings assigned by Section 61.003.

SECTION 2. Sections 51.762(a), (f), and (h), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) The board, with the assistance of high school counselors and an advisory committee composed of representatives of general academic teaching institutions, junior college districts, public state colleges, ~~[and]~~ public technical institutes, and private or independent institutions of higher education ~~[and with the consultation of all institutions of higher education that admit freshman-level students]~~:

(1) shall adopt by rule:

(A) a common admission application form for use by a person seeking admission ~~[as a freshman student]~~ to a general

1 academic teaching institution;

2 (B) an electronic common admission application
3 form for use by a person seeking admission [~~as a freshman student~~]
4 to an institution of higher education [~~that admits freshman-level~~
5 ~~students~~], other than a general academic teaching institution or a
6 medical and dental unit; and

7 (C) if the board determines that adoption of the
8 form would be cost-effective for nursing schools, an electronic
9 common admission application form for use by a person seeking
10 admission as a student to an undergraduate nursing education
11 program at an institution of higher education; and

12 (2) may adopt by rule a printed format common
13 admission application form for use by a person seeking admission as
14 a freshman student to an institution of higher education that
15 admits freshman-level students, other than a general academic
16 teaching institution.

17 (f) The board shall ensure that copies of the [~~freshman~~]
18 common admission application forms appropriate for use by a person
19 seeking admission to an institution of higher education as a
20 freshman student and information for the use of the forms are
21 available in electronic format [~~for distribution~~] to the
22 appropriate personnel at each public high school in this state.

23 (h) An applicant may file, and each institution of higher
24 education shall accept, an application for admission [~~as an~~
25 ~~entering freshman or undergraduate transfer student~~] that uses the
26 appropriate form adopted under this section. The form used to apply
27 to a general academic teaching institution may be filed in either

1 electronic or printed format. An institution of higher education
2 is not prohibited from requiring an applicant to submit additional
3 information within a reasonable time after the institution has
4 received an application using a form adopted under this section.

5 SECTION 3. Section 51.763(a), Education Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (a) The governing board of a university system shall adopt a
8 common admission application form consistent with this subchapter
9 to be used by any person seeking [~~freshman or undergraduate~~
10 ~~transfer~~] admission to one or more of the general academic teaching
11 institutions within the university system.

12 SECTION 4. Section 51.762(b), Education Code, is repealed.

13 SECTION 5. The changes in law made by this Act apply
14 beginning with applications for admission to institutions of higher
15 education for the 2018-2019 academic year.

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