

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 176

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the award of a grant under the Texas Educational
3 Opportunity Grant Program to certain students enrolled in a
4 baccalaureate degree program.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 56.402(b), Education Code, is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (b) The purpose of this subchapter is to provide a grant of
9 money to enable eligible students to attend eligible [~~two-year~~
10 ~~public~~] institutions [~~of higher education~~] in this state.

11 SECTION 2. Sections 56.404(a), (c), and (f), Education
12 Code, are amended to read as follows:

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

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

17 (2) meet financial need requirements as defined by the
18 coordinating board;

19 (3) be enrolled in an associate or baccalaureate
20 degree program or a certificate program at an eligible institution;

21 (4) be enrolled as an entering student for at least
22 one-half of a full course load for an entering student in the
23 associate or baccalaureate degree program or certificate program,
24 as determined by the coordinating board;

1 (5) have applied for any available financial aid or
2 assistance; and

3 (6) comply with any additional nonacademic
4 requirement adopted by the coordinating board under this
5 subchapter.

6 (c) A person is not eligible to receive a grant under this
7 subchapter if the person has been granted:

8 (1) an associate degree, if the person is enrolled in
9 an associate degree or certificate program; or

10 (2) a baccalaureate degree.

11 (f) A person's eligibility for a grant under this subchapter
12 ends on:

13 (1) the fourth anniversary of the initial award of a
14 grant under this subchapter to the person and the person's
15 enrollment in an eligible institution, if the person is enrolled in
16 a degree or certificate program of two years or less; or

17 (2) the fifth anniversary of the initial award of a
18 grant under this subchapter to the person and the person's
19 enrollment in an eligible institution, if the person is enrolled in
20 a degree program of more than two years.

21 SECTION 3. Sections 56.405(a) and (d), Education Code, are
22 amended to read as follows:

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

27 (1) meets financial need requirements as defined by

1 the coordinating board;

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

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

7 (4) makes satisfactory academic progress toward an
8 associate or baccalaureate degree or a certificate; and

9 (5) complies with any additional nonacademic
10 requirement adopted by the coordinating board.

11 (d) For the purpose of this section, a person makes
12 satisfactory academic progress toward an associate or
13 baccalaureate degree or a certificate only if:

14 (1) in the person's first academic year the person
15 meets the satisfactory academic progress requirements of the
16 institution at which the person is enrolled; and

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

18 (A) completes at least 75 percent of the semester
19 credit hours attempted in the student's most recent academic year;
20 and

21 (B) has earned an overall grade point average of
22 at least 2.5 on a four-point scale or the equivalent on course work
23 previously attempted at institutions of higher education.

24 SECTION 4. Subchapter P, Chapter 56, Education Code, is
25 amended by adding Section 56.4051 to read as follows:

26 Sec. 56.4051. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS.

27 (a) A person who is enrolled in an associate degree program or

1 certificate program at an eligible institution may not receive a
2 grant under this subchapter for more than 75 semester credit hours
3 or the equivalent.

4 (b) A person who is enrolled in a baccalaureate degree
5 program at an eligible institution may not receive a grant under
6 this subchapter for more than the greater of:

7 (1) 135 semester credit hours or the equivalent; or

8 (2) 15 semester credit hours, or the equivalent, in
9 addition to the number of credit hours needed to complete the
10 person's baccalaureate degree program.

11 SECTION 5. Section 56.407(a), Education Code, is amended to
12 read as follows:

13 (a) The amount of a grant under this subchapter for a
14 student enrolled full-time at an eligible institution is the amount
15 determined by the coordinating board as the average statewide
16 amount of tuition and required fees that ~~[a resident student~~
17 ~~enrolled full-time in an associate degree or certificate program]~~
18 would be charged for that semester or term at eligible institutions
19 to a resident student enrolled full-time in:

20 (1) an associate degree program or a certificate
21 program, if the student receiving the grant is enrolled in an
22 associate degree program or a certificate program; or

23 (2) a baccalaureate degree program, if the student
24 receiving the grant is enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program.

25 SECTION 6. Section 56.404(d), Education Code, is repealed.

26 SECTION 7. (a) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating
27 Board shall adopt rules to administer the Texas Educational

1 Opportunity Grant Program consistent with the changes made by this
2 Act to Subchapter P, Chapter 56, Education Code, as soon as
3 practicable after the effective date of this Act.

4 (b) The changes in law made by this Act to Subchapter P,
5 Chapter 56, Education Code, apply beginning with initial or
6 subsequent grants awarded for the 2022 fall semester. Initial or
7 subsequent grants awarded for a semester or term before the 2022
8 fall semester are governed by the applicable law in effect
9 immediately before the effective date of this Act, and the former
10 law is continued in effect for that purpose.

11 SECTION 8. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.