

CHAPTER 724

S.B. No. 1321

AN ACT

relating to the admission and enrollment of certain students in public institutions of higher education.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 51.929 to read as follows:

*Sec. 51.929. RIGHT TO AN ACADEMIC FRESH START. (a) This section applies to any public institution of higher education as defined in Section 61.003 of this code.*

*(b) Unless otherwise prohibited by law, a resident of this state is entitled to apply for admission to and enroll as an undergraduate student in any public institution of higher education under this section.*

*(c) If an applicant elects to seek admission under this section, a public institution of higher education, in considering the applicant for admission, shall not consider academic course credits or grades earned by the applicant 10 or more years prior to the starting date of the semester in which the applicant seeks to enroll. An applicant who makes the election to apply under this section and is admitted as a student may not receive any course credit for courses undertaken 10 or more years prior to enrollment under this section.*

*(d) If a student who enrolls under this section completes a prescribed course of study, earns a baccalaureate degree, and applies for admission to a postgraduate or professional program offered by a public institution of higher education, the institution, in considering the applicant for admission into the postgraduate or professional program, shall consider only the grade point average of the applicant established by the course work completed after*

*enrollment under this section, along with any other criteria the institution uses in evaluating applicants for admission into the postgraduate or professional program.*

*(e) Nothing in this section prohibits a public institution of higher education from applying standard admissions criteria generally applicable to persons seeking admission to the institution.*

SECTION 2. Section 51.929, Education Code, as added by this Act, applies beginning with the fall semester in 1993.

SECTION 3. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed the Senate on April 28, 1993: Yeas 30, Nays 1; the Senate concurred in House amendments on May 25, 1993: Yeas 30, Nays 0; passed the House, with amendments, on May 21, 1993, by a non-record vote.

Approved June 16, 1993.

Effective Aug. 30, 1993, 90 days after date of adjournment.