

- SUBJECT:** Standardized calculations for high school GPA
- COMMITTEE:** Higher Education — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 9 ayes — Morrison, McCall, F. Brown, Alonzo, Aycock, Giddings, D. Howard, Patrick, Rose
- 0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — Rey Garcia, Texas Association of Community Colleges
- Against — None
- On — Chris Alvarado, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
- BACKGROUND:** Education Code, sec. 28.0252 governs computation of high school grade point average (GPA). Sec. 51.807 allows the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to adopt rules relating to the operation of higher education admissions programs.
- Current law requires that each institution must provide THECB by July 31 a report describing the composition of the institution's entering class of students.
- The grade point scales in Texas high schools can vary because there is no standardization, yet GPA often arises in the admission process, financial eligibility requirements and other matters.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 3851 would require THECB to adopt rules establishing a standard method for computing high school GPAs for students applying as first-time freshman to general academic teaching institutions, beginning with admissions for the 2009 fall semester. The methodology would have to be based on a four-point scale and assign additional weight for honors courses, advanced placement courses, international baccalaureate courses, or dual credit courses and could result in a student have a GPA higher than 4.0. Each institution would have to submit a report describing the composition of its entering class of students, including the students' high school GPA.

If the commissioner of education developed a standard method to compute high school GPAs, the GPA computed in accordance with the provisions of the bill would be used in determining student eligibility for university admission.

Each institution would be required to adopt a written admission policy to promote the admission of undergraduate transfer students to the institution. The policy would have to provide for outreach and recruiting efforts directed at junior colleges and other lower-division higher education institutions and could include incentives to encourage transfer applications and to retain and promote transfer students.

THECB would have to adopt rules required to implement the bill as soon as practicably possible after the effective date of the bill.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2007.