

SUBJECT: Expanding automatic college admissions for certain homeschool students

COMMITTEE: Higher Education — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 9 ayes — Kuempel, Paul, Burns, Clardy, Cole, M. González, Howard, Lalani, Raney

0 nays

2 absent — Bucy, Burrows

WITNESSES: For — Kara Simmons, Texas Home School Coalition (*Registered, but did not testify*: Anita Scott, Texas Home School Coalition; Nicole Ma, Quynh-Huong Nguyen, Steven Wu, Woori Juntos)

Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Jaime Puente, Every Texan)

BACKGROUND: Sec. 51.9241, Education Code defines “nontraditional secondary education” as a course of study at the secondary school level in a nonaccredited private school setting, including a home school. Subsection (d) requires that if a higher education institution in its undergraduate admission review process sorts applicants by high school graduating class rank, the institution must place any applicant who presents evidence that the applicant has successfully completed a nontraditional secondary education without a high school graduating class ranking at the average high school graduating class rank of undergraduate applicants to the institution who have standardized testing scores equivalent to the applicant.

Concerns have been raised that, under current law, homeschool graduates may not automatically be considered for college admission under the top 10 percent rule, which requires certain Texas higher education institutions to automatically admit, as an undergraduate student, public high school graduates with a grade point average in the top 10 percent of the student’s graduating class in one of the two preceding school years.

DIGEST: HB 3993 would require general academic teaching institutions to admit undergraduate applicants who completed a nontraditional secondary education under the top 10 percent rule.

The bill would require a general academic teaching institution, in determining the admission eligibility for an applicant with a nontraditional secondary education that did not include a graduating class ranking, to calculate the applicant's class rank as provided by Education Code sec. 51.9241(d).

The changes in law made by the bill would apply beginning with admissions to a public higher education institution for the 2024 fall semester.

This 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, 2023.