

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
76R7189 KEL-D

S.B. 1356
By: Barrientos
Higher Education
4/16/1999
As Filed

DIGEST

Currently, demographic research states that certain statewide minority population percentages are not being reflected in the student population of the state's graduate and professional schools. This bill would set forth guidelines for providing certain students with an equal opportunity to enroll in or receive a competitive scholarship for a graduate or professional degree program.

PURPOSE

As proposed, S.B. 1356 sets forth guidelines for providing certain students with an equal opportunity to enroll in or receive a competitive scholarship for a graduate or professional degree program.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority is granted to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in SECTION 1 (Section 51.823, Education Code) of this bill.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 51, Education Code, by adding Subchapter V, as follows:

SUBCHAPTER V. ADMISSION AND SCHOLARSHIP POLICIES FOR GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS

Sec. 51.821. DEFINITIONS. Defines "general academic teaching institution," "medical and dental unit," "graduate program," and "professional program."

Sec. 51.822. ADMISSION AND SCHOLARSHIP FACTORS FOR GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS. Requires a graduate or professional program of a general academic teaching institution or medical or dental unit to consider certain factors in making admissions or decisions for admissions into or competitive scholarships for the graduate or professional program. Authorizes an applicant's performance on a standardized test to be used in the admissions or competitive scholarship program for the purposes of comparing applicants with similar backgrounds. Requires an applicant's performance on a standardized test to be considered with other compensatory criteria and prohibits the performance from accounting for more than 25 percent of the weight assigned to factors used in granting scholarships. Prohibits an applicant's performance on a standardized test from being used in the scholarship process under certain circumstances. Requires each general academic teaching institution or medical and dental unit to publish and make available to the public factors to be considered in scholarship granting decisions one year before scholarships are first considered. Provides that the requirements of Subsection (d) do not apply to scholarships for the 2000 fall semester. Requires each institution or unit covered in Subsection (d) to make the required information available to the public, applicants, graduates, and professional programs before December 1, 1999 for the 2000 fall semester. Provides that this section expires September 1, 2000.

Sec. 51.823. RULEMAKING. Authorizes the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (board) to adopt rules relating to the operation of admissions and competitive scholarship processes.

SECTION 2. Provides that the change in the law made by this Act applies beginning with admissions and competitive scholarships for the 2000 - 2001 academic year. Requires the board and certain institutions

and units to adopt rules regarding the admission of students, no later than January 1, 2000.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.
Effective date: upon passage.