
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 203 (File 203, as amended by Senate "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONSIDERATION OF FAMILIAL RELATIONSHIP DURING THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS BY AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

SUMMARY

This bill requires, by January 1, 2025, each public or independent higher education institution in the state to submit the following to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee:

1. a statement that it does not consider a prospective student's familial relationship to a graduate of, or donor to, the institution during the admissions process; or
2. a report with certain admissions and enrollment data, disaggregated by race and gender, for each of the prior five academic years.

Under the bill, the data must at least include the (1) total number of applicants who were admitted to, deferred by, transferred to, and enrolled in the institution and (2) number of these applicants who had a graduate or donor familial relationship.

The bill also requires, for the enrolled applicants, the data to include the following:

1. if available, median and average unweighted grade point average, class rank percentile, and standardized academic aptitude test (e.g., SAT) scores;
2. graduation or completion rates; and
3. median and average amount of need-based financial aid received by the students in each relationship category.

This data must also have the number of students in each relationship category with an expected family contribution or student aid index that qualified them as (1) eligible for a full or partial federal Pell grant or other need-based financial aid, (2) ineligible for a federal Pell grant but eligible for other need-based financial aid, and (3) ineligible for a federal Pell grant or other need-based financial aid.

*Senate Amendment "A" strikes the underlying bill, which prohibited higher education institutions from considering a prospective student's familial relationship to a graduate or donor when making admission decisions, and replaces it with provisions requiring any public or independent higher education institution to submit to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee a (1) statement that the institution does not consider a prospective student's familial relationship to a graduate of or donor to the institution or (2) a report with certain admissions and enrollment data for the prior five academic years.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 18 Nay 4 (03/14/2024)