

By: Ramos

H.B. No. 2234

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to tuition and fees exemptions at public institutions of  
3 higher education for certain dual credit students considering a  
4 teaching career.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. The heading to Section 54.363, Education Code,  
7 is amended to read as follows:

8 Sec. 54.363. GROW YOUR OWN EDUCATOR EXEMPTION [~~EDUCATIONAL~~  
9 ~~AIDES~~].

10 SECTION 2. Section 54.363, Education Code, is amended by  
11 amending Subsections (b), (c), and (c-1) and adding Subsection  
12 (c-2) to read as follows:

13 (b) The governing board of an institution of higher  
14 education shall exempt an eligible educational aide or high school  
15 student from the payment of tuition and fees, other than class or  
16 laboratory fees.

17 (c) To be eligible for an exemption under this section as an  
18 educational aide, a person must:

19 (1) be a resident of this state;

20 (2) be a school employee serving in any capacity;

21 (3) for the initial term or semester for which the  
22 person receives an exemption under this section, have worked as an  
23 educational aide for at least one school year during the five years  
24 preceding that term or semester;

1           (4) establish financial need as determined by  
2 coordinating board rule;

3           (5) be enrolled at the institution of higher education  
4 granting the exemption in courses required for teacher  
5 certification in one or more subject areas determined by the Texas  
6 Education Agency to be experiencing a critical shortage of teachers  
7 at the public schools in this state;

8           (6) maintain an acceptable grade point average as  
9 determined by coordinating board rule; and

10          (7) comply with any other requirements adopted by the  
11 coordinating board under this section.

12          (c-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (c)(5), a person who  
13 previously received a tuition exemption under this section as an  
14 educational aide remains eligible for an exemption if the person:

15           (1) is enrolled at an institution of higher education  
16 granting the exemption in courses required for teacher  
17 certification; and

18           (2) meets the eligibility requirements in Subsection  
19 (c) other than Subsection (c)(5).

20          (c-2) To be eligible for an exemption under this section as  
21 a high school student, a person must:

22           (1) be enrolled at a public high school in dual credit  
23 courses under Section 28.009 offered through the institution of  
24 higher education granting the exemption;

25           (2) be a member of a future teacher association; and

26           (3) comply with any other requirements adopted by the  
27 coordinating board under this section.

1           SECTION 3. As soon as practicable after the effective date  
2 of this Act, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall  
3 adopt or amend rules to implement Section [54.363](#), Education Code,  
4 as amended by this Act.

5           SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.