

By: Raney

H.B. No. 3997

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to reporting and data collection requirements in relation
3 to tuition and fee exemptions at public institutions of higher
4 education for certain military personnel and their family members.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 54.341(h), Education Code, is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (h) The governing board of each institution of higher
9 education shall electronically report to the Texas Higher Education
10 Coordinating Board [~~Veterans Commission~~] the information required
11 by Section 61.0516 [~~434.00791, Government Code,~~] relating to each
12 individual receiving an exemption from fees and charges under
13 Subsection (a), (a-2), (b), or (k). The institution shall report
14 the information not later than January 31 of each year for the fall
15 semester, June 30 of each year for the spring semester, and
16 September 30 of each year for the summer session.

17 SECTION 2. Section 434.00791, Government Code, is
18 transferred to Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code,
19 redesignated as Section 61.0516, Education Code, and amended to
20 read as follows:

21 Sec. 61.0516 [~~434.00791~~]. ELECTRONIC SYSTEM TO MONITOR
22 TUITION EXEMPTIONS FOR VETERANS AND FAMILY MEMBERS. [~~(a) In this~~
23 ~~section, "institution of higher education" has the meaning assigned~~
24 ~~by Section 61.003, Education Code.~~

1 ~~[(b)]~~ The board [~~commission~~] shall maintain [~~ensure~~] a
2 system to electronically monitor the use of tuition and fee
3 exemptions at institutions of higher education under Section
4 54.341[~~, Education Code, is developed~~]. The system must allow the
5 board [~~commission~~] to electronically receive, for each semester,
6 the following information from institutions of higher education:

7 (1) the name of the institution;

8 (2) the name, identification number, and date of birth
9 of each individual attending the institution and receiving benefits
10 for the semester under Section 54.341[~~, Education Code~~];

11 (3) for each individual receiving benefits, the number
12 of credit hours for which the individual received an exemption for
13 the semester;

14 (4) for each individual receiving benefits at the
15 institution during the semester, the total cumulative number of
16 credit hours for which the individual has received an exemption at
17 the institution; and

18 (5) any other information required by the board
19 [~~commission~~].

20 SECTION 3. The changes in law made by this Act apply
21 beginning with tuition and fee exemptions under Section 54.341,
22 Education Code, for the 2023 fall semester. Tuition and fee
23 exemptions for a term or semester before the 2023 fall semester are
24 governed by the law in effect immediately before the effective date
25 of this Act, and the former law is continued in effect for that
26 purpose.

27 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

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1 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
3 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
4 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.