

1-1 By: Wilson, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Hancock) H.B. No. 300
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 15, 2025;
1-3 April 16, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 Veteran Affairs; May 19, 2025, reported favorably by the following
1-5 vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; May 19, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10			X	
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			

1-15 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-16 AN ACT

1-17 relating to the Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program.
1-18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
1-19 SECTION 1. Section 61.9771(b), Education Code, is amended
1-20 to read as follows:
1-21 (b) The amount of a scholarship under this subchapter in an
1-22 academic year is the lesser of:
1-23 (1) the greater of \$30,000 or an amount equal to the
1-24 average cost of attendance at an institution of higher education in
1-25 this state, as determined by board rule [~~\$15,000~~]; or
1-26 (2) the amount available for each scholarship from
1-27 appropriations that may be used for scholarships under this
1-28 subchapter for that academic year.
1-29 SECTION 2. Section 61.9772, Education Code, is amended by
1-30 amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsection (b-1) to
1-31 read as follows:
1-32 (a) To receive an initial scholarship under this
1-33 subchapter, a student must:
1-34 (1) be enrolled in a public or private institution of
1-35 higher education in this state and, while enrolled at the
1-36 institution: [†]
1-37 (A) [~~(2)~~] enroll in and be a member in good
1-38 standing of a Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program or
1-39 another [~~undergraduate~~] officer commissioning program such as the
1-40 United States Marine Corps Platoon Leaders Class [~~while enrolled in~~
1-41 a public or private institution of higher education in this state];
1-42 (B) submit to the board proof of the student's
1-43 successful completion of a program described by Paragraph (A); or
1-44 (C) submit to the board proof of the student's
1-45 acceptance into the officer commissioning program for the Texas
1-46 State Guard, as defined by Section 437.001, Government Code;
1-47 (2) [~~(3)~~] be appointed to receive a scholarship by the
1-48 governor, the lieutenant governor, a state senator, or a state
1-49 representative; and
1-50 (3) [~~(4)~~] enter into an agreement with the board under
1-51 Section 61.9773.
1-52 (b) In each year, the governor and the lieutenant governor
1-53 shall [may] each appoint two students and two alternates and each
1-54 state senator and each state representative shall [may] appoint one
1-55 student and one alternate to receive an initial scholarship under
1-56 this subchapter. If a student appointed under this subsection to
1-57 receive a scholarship fails to initially meet eligibility or
1-58 otherwise meet the requirements to initially receive the
1-59 scholarship, the board [~~Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board~~
1-60 must notify the alternate on file of their nomination.
1-61 (b-1) A state senator or state representative shall make the

2-1 appointments required by Subsection (b) not later than September 30
 2-2 of each year. If a state senator or state representative fails to
 2-3 make a timely appointment in accordance with this subsection, the
 2-4 lieutenant governor or the speaker of the house of representatives,
 2-5 as appropriate, shall promptly fill the vacancy in appointment or
 2-6 designate a member of their respective chamber to promptly make the
 2-7 appointment on their behalf.

2-8 SECTION 3. Section 61.9773, Education Code, is amended to
 2-9 read as follows:

2-10 Sec. 61.9773. AGREEMENT REQUIREMENTS. (a) To receive a
 2-11 scholarship under this subchapter, a student must enter into an
 2-12 agreement with the board as provided by this section. The agreement
 2-13 must require the student to:

2-14 (1) satisfy one of the following requirements
 2-15 [complete]:

2-16 (A) complete or submit to the board proof that
 2-17 the student previously completed one year of ROTC training for each
 2-18 year that the student receives the scholarship; [or]

2-19 (B) complete or submit to the board proof that
 2-20 the student previously completed another [undergraduate] officer
 2-21 commissioning program such as the United States Marine Corps
 2-22 Platoon Leaders Class; or

2-23 (C) submit to the board proof of the student's
 2-24 acceptance into the officer commissioning program for the Texas
 2-25 State Guard, as defined by Section 437.001, Government Code;

2-26 (2) graduate not later than six years after the date
 2-27 the student first enrolls in a public or private institution of
 2-28 higher education in this state;

2-29 (3) after graduation, enter into:

2-30 (A) a four-year commitment to be a member of the
 2-31 Texas Army National Guard, Texas Air National Guard, Texas State
 2-32 Guard, United States Coast Guard, or United States Merchant Marine;
 2-33 or

2-34 (B) a contract to serve as a commissioned officer
 2-35 in any branch of the armed services of the United States;

2-36 (4) meet the physical examination requirements and all
 2-37 other prescreening requirements of the Texas Army National Guard,
 2-38 Texas Air National Guard, Texas State Guard, United States Coast
 2-39 Guard, or United States Merchant Marine or the branch of the armed
 2-40 services with which the student enters into a contract; and

2-41 (5) agree to repay the scholarship if the student:

2-42 (A) fails to maintain satisfactory academic
 2-43 progress;

2-44 (B) withdraws from the scholarship program; or

2-45 (C) fails to fulfill a commitment or contract
 2-46 described by Subdivision (3).

2-47 (b) The board shall adopt rules to exempt a student from the
 2-48 repayment of a scholarship under an agreement entered into under
 2-49 this section if the student is unable to meet the obligations of the
 2-50 agreement solely as a result of:

2-51 (1) physical inability; or

2-52 (2) an extraordinary circumstance outside the
 2-53 student's control.

2-54 (c) If the board determines that a student who entered into
 2-55 an agreement with the board under this section was erroneously
 2-56 removed from the scholarship program established under this
 2-57 subchapter, the board shall reinstate the student's scholarship if
 2-58 the student is currently enrolled in a public or private
 2-59 institution of higher education in this state.

2-60 SECTION 4. Section 61.9775, Education Code, is amended to
 2-61 read as follows:

2-62 Sec. 61.9775. LIMITATIONS ON SCHOLARSHIP. [~~(a)~~] A person
 2-63 may not receive a scholarship under this subchapter for more than
 2-64 four academic years [after earning a cumulative total of 150 credit
 2-65 hours or after being awarded a baccalaureate degree, whichever
 2-66 occurs first].

2-67 [~~(b)~~] A scholarship awarded to a student under this
 2-68 subchapter shall be reduced for an academic year by the amount by
 2-69 which the full amount of the scholarship plus the total amount to be

3-1 ~~paid to the student for being under contract with one of the~~
3-2 ~~branches of the armed services of the United States exceeds the~~
3-3 ~~student's total cost of attendance for that academic year at the~~
3-4 ~~public or private institution of higher education in which the~~
3-5 ~~student is enrolled.]~~

3-6 SECTION 5. Subchapter ~~FF~~, Chapter 61, Education Code, is
3-7 amended by adding Section 61.9777 to read as follows:

3-8 Sec. 61.9777. SCHOLARSHIP COORDINATOR. The board shall
3-9 designate an employee of the board to serve as a scholarship
3-10 coordinator for scholarships awarded under this subchapter. The
3-11 scholarship coordinator shall:

3-12 (1) serve as a liaison and point of contact for
3-13 students appointed to receive a scholarship under this subchapter;
3-14 and

3-15 (2) coordinate with financial aid offices at public
3-16 and private institutions of higher education in this state and with
3-17 relevant military personnel on behalf of scholarship recipients to
3-18 ensure students fully understand the requirements of this
3-19 subchapter.

3-20 SECTION 6. This Act applies beginning with the 2025-2026
3-21 academic year.

3-22 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
3-23 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
3-24 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
3-25 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
3-26 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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