

By: Shapleigh

S.B. No. 21

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to tuition exemptions granted by public institutions of
3 higher education to children of certain classroom teachers.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 54, Education Code, is
6 amended by adding Section 54.220 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 54.220. CHILDREN OF CLASSROOM TEACHERS. (a) The
8 governing board of each institution of higher education shall
9 exempt a person who is a resident of this state and a child of an
10 eligible classroom teacher from the payment of tuition when the
11 child is enrolled as an undergraduate student at the institution.

12 (b) To be eligible for an exemption from the payment of
13 tuition, a person must be a child of a person who at the beginning of
14 the semester or other equivalent academic session for which an
15 exemption is sought holds a National Board Certification, as
16 defined by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards,
17 and has 10 or more years of experience as a classroom teacher in a
18 critical teaching shortage field in one or more school districts in
19 this state, not including experience as a teaching aide or
20 administrator, and:

21 (1) is employed by a school district in this state as a
22 classroom teacher in a critical teaching shortage field; or

23 (2) has contracted with a school district in this
24 state to work as a classroom teacher in a critical teaching shortage

1 field during all or part of that semester or session or, if the
2 child is enrolled for a summer term or other academic session, has
3 contracted with a school district in this state to work as a
4 classroom teacher in a critical teaching shortage field during the
5 next school year.

6 (c) A person is not eligible for an exemption under this
7 section if the person:

8 (1) has previously received an exemption under this
9 section for 10 semesters or other equivalent academic sessions at
10 any institution or institutions of higher education; or

11 (2) has received a baccalaureate degree.

12 (d) For purposes of Subsection (c), a summer term or other
13 academic session that is less than nine weeks in duration is
14 considered one-half of a regular semester or equivalent academic
15 session.

16 (e) A person attending an institution of higher education
17 who becomes eligible to receive an exemption from tuition under
18 Subsection (b) is eligible for a refund of the amount of money that
19 the person paid to any institution of higher education for tuition
20 as a resident student in the three-year period preceding the
21 beginning of the first semester or session for which the person
22 receives the exemption.

23 (f) To receive a refund under Subsection (e), the person
24 must apply to the institution from which the refund is sought before
25 the expiration of one year after the person becomes eligible for the
26 refund. The institution shall pay the refund from any available
27 funds of the institution.

1 (g) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
2 adopt:

3 (1) rules governing the granting or denial of an
4 exemption under this section, including rules relating to the
5 determination of eligibility for an exemption or for a refund of
6 previously paid tuition; and

7 (2) a uniform application form for an exemption under
8 this section.

9 (h) In the funding formulas established under Section
10 61.059 for a biennium, the coordinating board shall take into
11 account any tuition exempted or any refund of tuition made in the
12 preceding biennium under this section.

13 (i) In this section:

14 (1) "Child" means a child of any age, including an
15 adult child. The term includes an adopted child.

16 (2) "Classroom teacher" has the meaning assigned by
17 Section 5.001(2).

18 (3) "Critical teaching shortage field" means an
19 instructional field designated by the commissioner of education as
20 experiencing a critical shortage of teachers.

21 SECTION 2. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), this
22 Act takes effect beginning with the 2005 fall semester.

23 (b) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
24 adopt rules and forms relating to the exemption of the children of
25 classroom teachers under Section 54.220, Education Code, as added
26 by this Act, not later than January 1, 2005.

27 SECTION 3. 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, 2004.