

By: Hupp

H.B. No. 261

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the eligibility of armed forces personnel and their family members to pay tuition and fees at the rate provided to Texas residents.

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

SECTION 1. Section 54.058, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (j) to read as follows:

(j) A member of the armed forces of the United States or the child or spouse of a member of the armed forces of the United States who is entitled to pay tuition and fees at the rate provided for Texas residents under another provision of this section while enrolled in a degree or certificate program is entitled to pay tuition and fees at the rate provided for Texas residents in any subsequent term or semester while the person is continuously enrolled in the same degree or certificate program. For purposes of this subsection, a person is not required to enroll in a summer term to remain continuously enrolled in a degree or certificate program. The person's eligibility to pay tuition and fees at the rate provided for Texas residents under this subsection does not terminate because the person is no longer a member of the armed forces of the United States or the child or spouse of a member of the armed forces of the United States.

SECTION 2. Section 54.058(j), as added by this Act, applies beginning with the 2003 fall semester to a person who was a member

1 of the armed forces of the United States or the child or spouse of a  
2 member of the armed forces of the United States entitled to pay  
3 tuition and fees at the rate provided for Texas residents under  
4 Section 54.058, Education Code, while enrolled in a degree or  
5 certificate program at a public institution of higher education in  
6 this state in the 2003 spring semester or in any term of the 2003  
7 summer session.

8         SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
9 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
10 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
11 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
12 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.