

By: Dutton

H.B. No. 365

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to an exemption from or refund of tuition and fees for  
3 certain lower-division students enrolled at Texas Southern  
4 University and Prairie View A&M University.

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

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

8 Sec. 54.220. EXEMPTION FOR LOWER-DIVISION STUDENTS AT  
9 CERTAIN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION. (a) An entering freshman  
10 student enrolled at Texas Southern University or Prairie View A&M  
11 University is entitled to a refund of tuition and required fees paid  
12 by the student under this chapter for the first semester or term for  
13 which the student enrolls at that university if the student:

14 (1) graduated from a private high school, including a  
15 home school, or a public high school in this state;

16 (2) is classified as a Texas resident under Subchapter  
17 B; and

18 (3) for all courses attempted that initial semester or  
19 term earns a grade point average of at least 2.0 on a four-point  
20 scale or the equivalent.

21 (b) To receive a refund under Subsection (a), the student  
22 must apply to the university in the manner required by the  
23 university not later than the first anniversary of the last class  
24 day of the semester or term.

1       (c) A student enrolled at Texas Southern University or  
2 Prairie View A&M University is exempt from the payment of tuition  
3 and required fees authorized by this chapter for a semester or term  
4 of the student's first two academic years, other than a semester or  
5 term covered by Subsection (a), at that university if the student:

6           (1) graduated from a private high school, including a  
7 home school, or a public high school in this state;

8           (2) is classified as a Texas resident under Subchapter  
9 B; and

10          (3) maintains an overall grade-point average of at  
11 least 2.0 on a four-point scale or the equivalent for all prior  
12 coursework attempted at the university.

13       (d) A student receiving an exemption under this section for  
14 one or more semesters or terms may not enroll for the student's  
15 third academic year at the university until the student passes an  
16 examination to be selected and administered by the university.

17       (e) A university to which this section applies may fund  
18 tuition and fee refunds and exemptions under this section from  
19 local funds or from funds appropriated to the university. The  
20 university may but is not required to provide tuition and fee  
21 refunds or exemptions beyond those funded through state  
22 appropriations specifically designated for this purpose.

23       (f) A person may not receive a refund or exemption under  
24 this section for a semester or term that begins after the 2022-2023  
25 academic year. This section expires September 1, 2024.

26       SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with tuition and fees  
27 charged for the 2003 fall semester.

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