(In the Senate - Received from the House April 14, 2003; April 15, 2003, read first time and referred to Committee on Education; May 19, 2003, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; May 19, 2003, sent to printer.) 1-1 1-2 1-3 1-4 1-5

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

relating to tuition rebates to certain undergraduate students who graduate from an institution of higher education without excessive semester credit hours.

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

SECTION 1. Section 54.0065(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

- (a) A qualified student is eligible for a rebate of a portion of the undergraduate tuition the student has paid if the α student:
- (1)is awarded a baccalaureate degree from a general academic teaching institution; and
- (2) has attempted no more than three hours in excess of the minimum number of semester credit hours required to complete the degree, including:

(<u>A)</u> transfer credits; and

(B) course credit earned exclusively examination, except that, for purposes of this subsection, only the number of semester credit hours earned exclusively by examination in excess of nine semester credit hours is treated as hours attempted.

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act to Section 54.0065, Education Code, applies only to a student who graduates from an institution of higher education on or after the effective date of this Act.

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

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