

By: Naishtat

H.B. No. 2969

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to exempting certain persons in transitional living  
3 programs from the payment of tuition and fees at public  
4 institutions of higher education.

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 54.2115 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 54.2115. TUITION EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN PERSONS IN  
9 TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROGRAM. (a) In this section, "transitional  
10 living program" means a program that meets the grant eligibility  
11 standards for transitional living youth projects for homeless youth  
12 under Sections 321 and 322, Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42  
13 U.S.C. Sections 5714-1 and 5714-2), as amended.

14 (b) A person is exempt from the payment of tuition and  
15 required fees other than property deposit fees if the person:

16 (1) was a resident in a transitional living program  
17 for a continuous period of at least six months occurring after the  
18 person's 16th birthday but before the person's 22nd birthday;

19 (2) maintains a current residence that is separate  
20 from that of a parent, conservator, or other guardian of the person;

21 (3) is classified as a Texas resident under Subchapter  
22 B;

23 (4) initially enrolls at an institution of higher  
24 education as a full-time or part-time undergraduate student not

1 later than the person's 22nd birthday; and

2 (5) demonstrates financial need as determined  
3 according to standards adopted by any institution of higher  
4 education in which the person enrolls.

5 (c) Each transitional living program in this state shall  
6 provide current program information to the Department of Protective  
7 and Regulatory Services and shall update the information as  
8 necessary. The department shall maintain a record of each  
9 transitional living program in this state and shall provide a list  
10 of the programs to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
11 not later than June 1 of each year.

12 SECTION 2. (a) This Act applies beginning with tuition and  
13 fees for the 2004 spring semester.

14 (b) A public institution of higher education shall adopt the  
15 standards for financial need as described by Section 54.2115,  
16 Education Code, as added by this Act, not later than the 30th day  
17 after the effective date of this Act.

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