

BILL ANALYSIS

S.B. 1037
By: Lucio
Higher Education
Committee Report (Amended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

As proposed, S.B. 1037 allows a person training as an Olympic athlete to be eligible for in-state tuition and fees at institutions of higher education in Texas. The person will be granted in-state tuition as long as the person is training for Olympic competition in Texas or participating in a community Olympic development program. The Olympic program must be approved by the governing body for the athlete's Olympic sport. An out-of-state athlete training in Texas will not be considered a state resident and will not be eligible for a financial aid program provided by the state.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Subchapter B, Chapter 54, Education Code, by adding Section 54.073, as follows:

Sec. 54.073. TUITION RATES FOR OLYMPIC ATHLETES. (a) Entitles a person enrolled in an institution of higher education to pay tuition and fees at the rates provided for Texas residents if the person meets certain requirements relating to the Community Olympic Development Program or a United States Olympic training center.

(b) Provides that a person who is entitled to pay resident tuition and fees only as permitted by this section is not considered a Texas resident under this subchapter for purposes of a financial aid program offered by this state, notwithstanding any other law.

SECTION 2. Makes application of Section 54.073, Education Code, as added by this Act, prospective to the 2005 fall semester.

SECTION 3. Effective date:

EFFECTIVE DATE

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, 2005.

EXPLANATION OF AMENDMENTS

The amendment limits the proposed program to the University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College.