

1-1 By: Guillen, Chavez, Castro, et al. H.B. No. 503
1-2 (Senate Sponsor - Fraser)
1-3 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 11, 2005;
1-4 April 12, 2005, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-5 Veteran Affairs and Military Installations; April 29, 2005,
1-6 reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 3, Nays 0;
1-7 April 29, 2005, sent to printer.)

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to tuition and fee exemptions for certain military
1-11 personnel and certain children of those personnel.

1-12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-13 SECTION 1. Section 54.203(a), Education Code, is amended to
1-14 read as follows:

1-15 (a) The governing board of each institution of higher
1-16 education shall exempt the following persons from the payment of
1-17 all dues, fees, and charges, including fees for correspondence
1-18 courses but excluding property deposit fees, student services fees,
1-19 and any fees or charges for lodging, board, or clothing, provided
1-20 the persons seeking the exemptions were citizens of Texas at the
1-21 time they entered the services indicated and have resided in Texas
1-22 for at least the period of 12 months before the date of
1-23 registration:

1-24 (1) all nurses and honorably discharged members of the
1-25 armed forces of the United States who served during the
1-26 Spanish-American War or during World War I;

1-27 (2) all nurses, members of the Women's Army Auxiliary
1-28 Corps, members of the Women's Auxiliary Volunteer Emergency
1-29 Service, and all honorably discharged members of the armed forces
1-30 of the United States who served during World War II except those who
1-31 were discharged from service because they were over the age of 38 or
1-32 because of a personal request on the part of the person that he be
1-33 discharged from service;

1-34 (3) all honorably discharged men and women of the
1-35 armed forces of the United States who served during the national
1-36 emergency which began on June 27, 1950, and which is referred to as
1-37 the Korean War; and

1-38 (4) all persons who were honorably discharged from the
1-39 armed forces of the United States after serving on active military
1-40 duty, excluding training, for more than 180 days and who served a
1-41 portion of their active duty during:

1-42 (A) the Cold War which began on the date of the
1-43 termination of the national emergency cited in Subdivision (3) of
1-44 this subsection;

1-45 (B) the Vietnam era which began on December 21,
1-46 1961, and ended on May 7, 1975;

1-47 (C) the Grenada and Lebanon era which began on
1-48 August 24, 1982, and ended on July 31, 1984;

1-49 (D) the Panama era which began on December 20,
1-50 1989, and ended on January 21, 1990;

1-51 (E) the Persian Gulf War which began on August 2,
1-52 1990, and ends on the date thereafter prescribed by Presidential
1-53 proclamation or September 1, 1997, whichever occurs first; ~~or~~

1-54 (F) the national emergency by reason of certain
1-55 terrorist attacks that began on September 11, 2001; or

1-56 (G) any future national emergency declared in
1-57 accordance with federal law.

1-58 SECTION 2. Section 54.203, Education Code, as amended by
1-59 this Act, applies beginning with tuition and other fees charged for
1-60 the 2005 fall semester. Tuition and other fees charged for an
1-61 academic period before the 2005 fall semester are covered by the law
1-62 in effect immediately before the effective date of this Act, and the
1-63 former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

1-64 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

2-1 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-2 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-3 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-4 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.

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