

By: Rodriguez

H.B. No. 2780

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to tuition and fee benefits for graduate students employed
3 as teaching assistants, assistant instructors, or research
4 assistants at public institutions of higher education and for
5 certain family members of those students.

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

7 SECTION 1. Section 54.063, Education Code, is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 Sec. 54.063. TEACHING OR RESEARCH ASSISTANT. (a) An
10 assistant instructor, [A] teaching assistant, or research
11 assistant of any institution of higher education and the spouse and
12 children of the assistant instructor, [such a] teaching assistant,
13 or research assistant are entitled to register in an [a state]
14 institution of higher education by paying the tuition fees and
15 other fees [or charges] required for Texas residents under
16 Subchapter B [Section 54.051 of this code, without regard to the
17 length of time the instructor or assistant has resided in this state
18 [Texas], if the instructor or assistant is employed at least
19 one-half time in a teaching or research assistant position that
20 [which] relates to the instructor's or assistant's degree program
21 under rules [and regulations] established by the employer
22 institution.

23 (b) The governing board of an institution of higher
24 education shall exempt from the payment of tuition fees a graduate

1 student who:

2 (1) is employed at the institution as an assistant
3 instructor, teaching assistant, or research assistant;

4 (2) is researching or writing the report, thesis, or
5 dissertation required by the student's graduate degree program; and

6 (3) is not enrolled in a course with organized course
7 work.

8 (c) A student is considered to be enrolled as a full-time
9 student for all purposes if the student:

10 (1) is entitled to an exemption from tuition fees
11 under Subsection (b); or

12 (2) would be entitled to an exemption from tuition
13 fees under Subsection (b) except that the student is enrolled in a
14 course with organized course work.

15 (d) In its appropriations to general academic teaching
16 institutions, the legislature shall compute the local funds
17 available to each institution as if the tuition fees for which an
18 exemption is granted under Subsection (b) were collected by the
19 institution.

20 (e) In this section, "general academic teaching
21 institution" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

22 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies
23 beginning with the 2005 fall semester.

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

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1 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.