

By: Herrero

H.B. No. 3447

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a fixed tuition rate provided by general academic teaching institutions to certain undergraduate students.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 54, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 54.011 to read as follows:

Sec. 54.011. FIXED TUITION RATE FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS.

(a) In this section:

(1) "Coordinating board" means the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

(2) "General academic teaching institution" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

(b) Except as otherwise provided by this section, in a semester or other academic term, the governing board of a general academic teaching institution may not charge tuition to an undergraduate student under Section 54.0513, or under any other law granting the institution discretion to set the tuition rate, at a rate that exceeds the rate the institution charged the student during the first semester or other academic term the student enrolled in the institution if the student is currently and at all times while enrolled at the institution has been a resident of this state for purposes of Subchapter B, Chapter 54, or was otherwise entitled to pay tuition at the rate provided for residents of this state.

1       (c) If a student enrolls at a general academic teaching  
2 institution after transferring from a public or private institution  
3 of higher education, Subsection (b) does not apply to the student  
4 after the second anniversary of the date of that enrollment,  
5 regardless of whether the student was ever previously enrolled at  
6 the institution. For any other student, Subsection (b) does not  
7 apply after the fourth anniversary of the date the student first  
8 enrolls at the institution.

9       (d) Each general academic teaching institution shall notify  
10 each entering undergraduate student, including each undergraduate  
11 student who transfers to the institution, of the eligibility  
12 requirements for a fixed tuition rate under this section.

13       (e) In consultation with the general academic teaching  
14 institutions, the coordinating board shall adopt any rules the  
15 coordinating board considers appropriate for the administration of  
16 this section.

17       (f) This section does not apply to a student who enters a  
18 general academic teaching institution for the first time before the  
19 2006 fall semester. This subsection expires January 1, 2012.

20       SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
21 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
22 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
23 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
24 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.