

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 34

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the tuition rebate program for certain undergraduates at certain public institutions of higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Subsections (a), (c), and (i), Section 54.0065, Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) A qualified student is eligible for a rebate of a portion of the undergraduate tuition the student has paid if the student:

(1) is awarded a baccalaureate degree from a general academic teaching institution within the period prescribed by Section 56.462(1)(A) or (B), as applicable, to qualify for forgiveness of a Texas B-On-time loan; and

(2) has attempted no more than three hours in excess of the minimum number of semester credit hours required to complete the degree, including:

(A) transfer credits; and

(B) course credit earned exclusively by examination, except that, for purposes of this subsection, only the number of semester credit hours earned exclusively by examination in excess of nine semester credit hours is treated as hours attempted.

(c) A student who has transferred from another institution of higher education shall provide the institution awarding the

1 degree an official transcript from each institution attended by the
2 student in order that the period during which the student has been
3 enrolled in a general academic teaching institution and the total
4 number of hours attempted by the student can be verified.

5 (i) The coordinating board, in consultation with the
6 institutions of higher education, shall adopt rules for the
7 administration of this section, including a rule to allow an
8 otherwise eligible student to receive a rebate under this section
9 if the student is not awarded a baccalaureate degree within the
10 period required by Subsection (a)(1) solely as a result of a
11 hardship or other good cause. The performance of active duty
12 military service by a student shall be recognized as "good cause"
13 for purposes of this section.

14 SECTION 2. (a) The change in law made by this Act applies
15 only to a student who enters a general academic teaching
16 institution for the first time on or after the effective date of
17 this Act.

18 (b) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
19 adopt the rule required by Subsection (i), Section 54.0065,
20 Education Code, as amended by this Act, relating to students who do
21 not graduate within the required time as a result of hardship or
22 other good cause, as soon as practicable after this Act takes
23 effect. For that purpose, the coordinating board may adopt the
24 initial rule in the manner provided by law for emergency rules.

25 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
26 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
27 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

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- 1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
- 2 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.