

By: Van de Putte

S.B. No. 775

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to tuition assistance for members of state military
3 forces.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 54.2155(a), Education Code, is amended
6 to read as follows:

7 (a) In the manner established by the Texas Higher Education
8 Coordinating Board, for each semester the coordinating board shall
9 certify to institutions of higher education information
10 identifying the persons to whom the adjutant general of the state
11 military forces has awarded tuition assistance under Section
12 431.090, Government Code, if the coordinating board has determined
13 that sufficient money is available to reimburse institutions for
14 tuition exemptions granted under this section and to make tuition
15 assistance grants under Subsection (c). An institution of higher
16 education shall exempt a person certified by the coordinating board
17 under this section from the payment of tuition for the semester
18 credit hours for which the person enrolls, not to exceed 15 [~~12~~]
19 semester credit hours. If the person is not charged tuition at the
20 rate provided for other Texas residents, the amount of the
21 exemption may not exceed the amount of tuition the person would be
22 charged as a Texas resident for the number of semester credit hours
23 for which the person enrolls, not to exceed 15 [~~12~~] semester credit
24 hours.

1 SECTION 2. Sections 431.090(d) and (f), Government Code,
2 are amended to read as follows:

3 (d) The adjutant general shall grant tuition assistance
4 under this section to a number of eligible persons established by
5 the adjutant general, considering funds available for that
6 assistance and the needs of the state military forces. The adjutant
7 general may apportion the number of tuition assistance awards among
8 the components of the state military forces as the adjutant general
9 considers necessary to meet the recruitment and retention needs of
10 those components. [~~The number of tuition assistance awards made to~~
11 ~~members of the Texas State Guard may not exceed 30 for any semester,~~
12 ~~unless the adjutant general finds a compelling need for additional~~
13 ~~awards to members of the Texas State Guard.~~]

14 (f) A person may not receive tuition assistance under this
15 section for:

16 (1) more than 15 [~~12~~] semester credit hours in any
17 semester; or

18 (2) more than five academic years or 10 semesters,
19 whichever occurs first for the person.

20 SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act applies only
21 to tuition assistance granted for a semester or other academic term
22 that begins on or after December 1, 2005.

23 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
24 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
25 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
26 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
27 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.