

By: West, Royce

S.B. No. 1181

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to exempting a peace officer from tuition and fees charged by a public institution of higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 54, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 54.2042 to read as follows:

Sec. 54.2042. PEACE OFFICERS. (a) The governing board of an institution of higher education may exempt a student from the payment of tuition and required fees authorized by this chapter for a course in which there is a space available to the student if the student:

(1) is employed by an agency or political subdivision of this state as a peace officer for purposes of Article 2.12, Code of Criminal Procedure; and

(2) is a resident of this state and has resided in this state for the 12 months immediately preceding the beginning of the semester or session for which an exemption is sought.

(b) A person may not receive an exemption under this section for more than 12 semesters or sessions while the person is enrolled in an undergraduate program or while the person is attending only undergraduate courses.

(c) A person may not receive an exemption under this section if the person is enrolled in a master's degree program or is attending postgraduate courses to meet the requirements of a

1 master's degree program and the person has previously received a
2 master's degree and received an exemption under this section for a
3 semester or session while attending a postgraduate course to meet
4 the requirements of the master's degree program.

5 (d) A person may not receive an exemption under this section
6 if the person is enrolled in a doctoral degree program or is
7 attending postgraduate courses to meet the requirements of a
8 doctoral degree program and the person has previously received a
9 doctoral degree and received an exemption under this section for a
10 semester or session while attending a postgraduate course to meet
11 the requirements of the doctoral degree program.

12 (e) A person must apply for an exemption in the manner
13 provided by the governing board of the institution. The governing
14 board shall require an applicant for an exemption to submit
15 satisfactory evidence that the applicant is eligible for the
16 exemption.

17 (f) The legislature, in an appropriations act, shall
18 account for the rates of tuition and fees for which an exemption is
19 authorized by Subsection (a) in a way that does not increase the
20 general revenue appropriations to that institution.

21 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with tuition and
22 required fees charged by a public institution of higher education
23 for 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.