

By: Hinojosa

S.B. No. 1671

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to higher education tuition exemptions for members of
3 certain groups that are underrepresented among the faculty or
4 administration of public junior colleges.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 54, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 54.215 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 54.215. INDIVIDUALS UNDERREPRESENTED AMONG PUBLIC
9 JUNIOR COLLEGE FACULTY OR ADMINISTRATION. (a) In this section:

10 (1) "Educationally disadvantaged" has the meaning
11 assigned by Section 5.001.

12 (2) "Low-performing campus" means a campus considered
13 to be a low-performing campus under Section 39.132(a).

14 (3) "Public junior college" has the meaning assigned
15 by Section 61.003.

16 (b) For purposes of this section, an individual is from a
17 group that is underrepresented among the faculty or administration
18 of public junior colleges if:

19 (1) while pursuing an undergraduate education, the
20 individual's family income was not greater than the family income
21 of a person who is educationally disadvantaged; or

22 (2) at the time the individual graduated from high
23 school, the individual resided in an area from which a
24 disproportionately low number of high school graduates enrolled in

1 postsecondary educational institutions.

2 (c) The governing board of an institution of higher
3 education shall exempt from the payment of tuition a resident of
4 this state enrolled as a graduate student at the institution who:

5 (1) is employed in the current academic year by a
6 public junior college as a member of the faculty or administration;

7 (2) is from a group that is underrepresented among the
8 faculty or administration of public junior colleges; and

9 (3) graduated from a high school in this state:

10 (A) that, at the time of the individual's
11 graduation, was a low-performing campus; or

12 (B) in which, at the time of the individual's
13 graduation, at least 50 percent of the total number of students
14 enrolled in the high school were educationally disadvantaged.

15 (d) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
16 adopt:

17 (1) rules governing the granting or denial of an
18 exemption under this section, including rules relating to the
19 determination of eligibility for an exemption; and

20 (2) a uniform application form for an exemption under
21 this section.

22 SECTION 2. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of
23 this section, this Act takes effect beginning with the 2006 fall
24 semester.

25 (b) Not later than January 1, 2006, the Texas Higher
26 Education Coordinating Board shall adopt rules and forms for the
27 administration of Section 54.215, Education Code, as added by this

1 Act.

2 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
6 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.