

By: Gallego

H.B. No. 1163

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to tuition and fee exemptions at public institutions of  
3 higher education for the spouses of certain military personnel.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 54.203, Education Code, is amended by  
6 amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (b-1) to read as  
7 follows:

8 (b) The exemptions provided for in Subsection (a) [~~of this~~  
9 ~~section~~] also apply [~~and inure~~] to the [~~benefit of the~~] children of  
10 members of the armed forces of the United States who are or were  
11 killed in action, who die or died while in service, who are missing  
12 in action, or whose death is documented to be directly caused by  
13 illness or injury connected with service in the armed forces of the  
14 United States, and to the children and spouse [~~benefit of orphans~~]  
15 of a member [~~members~~] of the Texas National Guard or [~~and~~] the Texas  
16 Air National Guard killed since January 1, 1946, while on active  
17 duty either in the service of this [~~their~~] state or the United  
18 States. To [~~However, to~~] qualify for an [~~this~~] exemption under this  
19 subsection, a person must be a citizen of Texas and must have  
20 resided in this [~~the~~] state for at least 12 months immediately  
21 preceding the date of the person's registration.

22 (b-1) A spouse described by Subsection (b) is eligible for  
23 an exemption provided for in Subsection (a) until the earlier of:

24 (1) the date the spouse remarries; or

1           (2) the 10th anniversary of the date of the death of  
2 the member of the Texas National Guard or the Texas Air National  
3 Guard, as applicable.

4           SECTION 2. Section 54.203, Education Code, as amended by  
5 this Act, applies beginning with tuition, fees, and other charges  
6 for the 2007 fall semester. Tuition, fees, and other charges for an  
7 academic period before the 2007 fall semester are covered by the law  
8 in effect immediately before the effective date of this Act, and the  
9 former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

10           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
11 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
14 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.