

By: Truitt

H.B. No. 2702

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the exemption from tuition and fees at a public
3 institution of higher education for adopted students.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 54.2111(a), Education Code, is amended
6 to read as follows:

7 (a) A student is exempt from the payment of tuition and fees
8 authorized by this chapter if the student:

9 (1) was adopted; and

10 (2) was the subject of an adoption assistance
11 agreement under Subchapter D, Chapter 162, Family Code, that:

12 (A) provided monthly payments and medical
13 assistance benefits; and

14 (B) was not limited to providing only for the
15 reimbursement of nonrecurring expenses, including reasonable and
16 necessary adoption fees, court costs, attorney's fees, and other
17 expenses directly related to the legal adoption of the child.

18 SECTION 2. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of this
19 section, the change in law made by this Act applies beginning with
20 tuition and fees charged at a public institution of higher
21 education for the 2007 fall semester. Tuition and fees charged for
22 an academic period before the 2007 fall semester are covered by the
23 law in effect immediately before the effective date of this Act, and
24 the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

1 (b) The change in law made by this Act does not apply to a
2 student who was enrolled in a public institution of higher
3 education and qualified for an exemption from tuition and fees
4 under Section 54.2111(a), Education Code, for any academic term of
5 the 2006-2007 academic year. A student described by this
6 subsection is entitled to an exemption from tuition and fees under
7 Section 54.2111(a), Education Code, as that section existed
8 immediately before the effective date of this Act, until the
9 earlier of:

10 (1) the date the student completes the degree program
11 in which the student was last enrolled in the 2006-2007 academic
12 year or another degree program of the same level; or

13 (2) the fourth anniversary of the date the student
14 initially enrolled in the degree program in which the student was
15 last enrolled in the 2006-2007 academic year.

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