

1-1 By: Truitt (Senate Sponsor - Shapiro) H.B. No. 2702  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 10, 2007;  
1-3 May 14, 2007, read first time and referred to Subcommittee on  
1-4 Higher Education; May 18, 2007, reported favorably from Committee  
1-5 on Education by the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0, 1 present not  
1-6 voting; May 18, 2007, sent to printer.)

1-7 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-8 AN ACT

1-9 relating to the exemption from tuition and fees at a public  
1-10 institution of higher education for adopted students.

1-11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-12 SECTION 1. Section 54.2111(a), Education Code, is amended  
1-13 to read as follows:

1-14 (a) A student is exempt from the payment of tuition and fees  
1-15 authorized by this chapter if the student:

1-16 (1) was adopted; and

1-17 (2) was the subject of an adoption assistance  
1-18 agreement under Subchapter D, Chapter 162, Family Code, that:

1-19 (A) provided monthly payments and medical  
1-20 assistance benefits; and

1-21 (B) was not limited to providing only for the  
1-22 reimbursement of nonrecurring expenses, including reasonable and  
1-23 necessary adoption fees, court costs, attorney's fees, and other  
1-24 expenses directly related to the legal adoption of the child.

1-25 SECTION 2. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of this  
1-26 section, the change in law made by this Act applies beginning with  
1-27 tuition and fees charged at a public institution of higher  
1-28 education for the 2007 fall semester. Tuition and fees charged for  
1-29 an academic period before the 2007 fall semester are covered by the  
1-30 law in effect immediately before the effective date of this Act, and  
1-31 the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

1-32 (b) The change in law made by this Act does not apply to a  
1-33 student who was enrolled in a public institution of higher  
1-34 education and qualified for an exemption from tuition and fees  
1-35 under Section 54.2111(a), Education Code, for any academic term of  
1-36 the 2006-2007 academic year. A student described by this  
1-37 subsection is entitled to an exemption from tuition and fees under  
1-38 Section 54.2111(a), Education Code, as that section existed  
1-39 immediately before the effective date of this Act, until the  
1-40 earlier of:

1-41 (1) the date the student completes the degree program  
1-42 in which the student was last enrolled in the 2006-2007 academic  
1-43 year or another degree program of the same level; or

1-44 (2) the fourth anniversary of the date the student  
1-45 initially enrolled in the degree program in which the student was  
1-46 last enrolled in the 2006-2007 academic year.

1-47 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
1-48 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
1-49 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
1-50 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
1-51 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

1-52 \* \* \* \* \*