

By: Herrero

H.B. No. 3737

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to a fixed tuition rate provided by general academic
3 teaching institutions and public junior colleges to certain
4 undergraduate students.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 54, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 54.016 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 54.016. FIXED TUITION RATE FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS.

9 (a) In this section:

10 (1) "Coordinating board" means the Texas Higher
11 Education Coordinating Board.

12 (2) "General academic teaching institution" and
13 "public junior college" have the meanings assigned by Section
14 61.003.

15 (b) Except as otherwise provided by this section, in a
16 semester or other academic term, the governing board of a general
17 academic teaching institution or public junior college may not
18 charge tuition to an undergraduate student under Section 54.0513,
19 or under any other law granting the institution or college
20 discretion to set the tuition rate, at a rate that exceeds the rate
21 the institution or college charged the student during the first
22 semester or other academic term the student enrolled in the
23 institution or college if the student is currently and at all times
24 while enrolled at the institution or college has been a resident of

1 this state for purposes of Subchapter B or was otherwise entitled to
2 pay tuition at the rate provided for residents of this state.

3 (c) If a student enrolls in a general academic teaching
4 institution after transferring from another public or private
5 institution of higher education, Subsection (b) does not apply to
6 the student after the second anniversary of the date of that
7 enrollment, regardless of whether the student was ever previously
8 enrolled at the institution. For any other student enrolled in a
9 general academic teaching institution, Subsection (b) does not
10 apply to the student after:

11 (1) the fourth anniversary of the date the student
12 first enrolls at the institution, if the student is enrolled in a
13 four-year degree program; or

14 (2) the end of the standard completion period for the
15 degree program in which the student is enrolled, as established by
16 the institution awarding the degree, if the student is enrolled in a
17 degree program other than a four-year degree program.

18 (d) For a student enrolled in a public junior college,
19 Subsection (b) does not apply to the student after the second
20 anniversary of the date the student first enrolls at the college.

21 (e) Each general academic teaching institution or public
22 junior college shall notify each entering undergraduate student,
23 including each undergraduate student who transfers to the
24 institution or college, of the eligibility requirements for a fixed
25 tuition rate under this section.

26 (f) In consultation with the general academic teaching
27 institutions and public junior colleges, the coordinating board

1 shall adopt any rules the coordinating board considers appropriate
2 for the administration of this section.

3 (g) This section does not apply to a student who enters a
4 general academic teaching institution or public junior college for
5 the first time before the 2008 fall semester. This subsection
6 expires January 1, 2014.

7 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
8 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
9 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
10 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
11 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.