

1-1 By: Van de Putte, Uresti S.B. No. 516  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 8, 2007; February 26, 2007,  
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Veteran Affairs and  
1-4 Military Installations; April 12, 2007, reported favorably by the  
1-5 following vote: Yeas 4, Nays 0; April 12, 2007, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to allowing certain military personnel to receive certain  
1-9 federal and state higher education benefits concurrently.

1-10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-11 SECTION 1. Subsection (e), Section 54.203, Education Code,  
1-12 is amended to read as follows:

1-13 (e) A ~~[The exemption from fees provided for in Subsection~~  
1-14 ~~(a) of this section does not apply to a person if at the time of his~~  
1-15 ~~registration he is eligible for educational benefits under federal~~  
1-16 ~~legislation in effect at the time of his registration if the value~~  
1-17 ~~of those benefits is equal to or exceeds the value of the exemption,~~  
1-18 ~~except that the person must first utilize the federal benefit for~~  
1-19 ~~which he is eligible and the combined amount of the federal benefit~~  
1-20 ~~plus the amount of this waiver shall not exceed the maximum value of~~  
1-21 ~~the waiver. A person is covered by the exemptions if his right to~~  
1-22 ~~benefits under federal legislation is extinguished at the time of~~  
1-23 ~~his registration, except that a]~~ person is not eligible for an  
1-24 exemption from fees under this section if the person's right to  
1-25 educational benefits under federal law ~~[legislation]~~ is  
1-26 extinguished because the person is in default of repayment of a loan  
1-27 made to the person under a federal program to provide or guarantee  
1-28 loans for educational purposes. A person is not eligible for the  
1-29 exemption if the person is in default on a loan made or guaranteed  
1-30 for educational purposes by the State of Texas.

1-31 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies  
1-32 beginning with tuition and fees for the 2007 fall semester. Tuition  
1-33 and fees for a term or semester before the 2007 fall semester are  
1-34 covered by the law in effect immediately before the effective date  
1-35 of this Act, and the former law is continued in effect for that  
1-36 purpose.

1-37 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
1-38 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
1-39 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
1-40 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
1-41 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

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