

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 1231

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

relating to refunding tuition and mandatory fees at institutions of higher education for dropped courses and student withdrawals.

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

SECTION 1. The heading to Section 54.006, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 54.006. REFUND OR ADJUSTMENT OF TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES FOR DROPPED COURSES AND STUDENT WITHDRAWALS.

SECTION 2. Section 54.006, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a), (b), (c), and (e), and adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

(a) A general academic teaching institution or medical and dental unit, as soon as practicable, shall refund the amount of ~~[fees and]~~ tuition and mandatory fees ~~[in excess of the minimum tuition]~~ collected for courses from which students drop within the first 12 days of a fall or spring semester or a summer term of 12 weeks or longer, within the first four days of a ~~[summer]~~ term or session of more than five weeks but less than 12 weeks, or within the period specified by the institution for that purpose for a term or session of five weeks or less that is substantially proportional to the period specified by this subsection for a longer term or session. The institution or medical and dental unit may not delay a refund under this subsection on the grounds that the student may withdraw from the institution or unit later in the semester or term.

1 (a-1) An institution may assess a nonrefundable \$15
2 matriculation fee if the student withdraws from the institution
3 before the first day of classes.

4 (b) A general academic teaching institution or medical and
5 dental unit shall refund to a student withdrawing from the
6 institution or unit an amount equal to the product of the amount of
7 tuition and mandatory fees collected for each course in which the
8 student is enrolled on the date the student withdraws multiplied by
9 the applicable percentage derived from the following tables:

10 (1) if the student withdraws during a fall or spring
11 semester or a summer term of 12 weeks or longer [~~or comparable~~
12 ~~trimester~~]:

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| (A) | prior to the first class day | 100 percent |
| (B) | during the first five class days | 80 percent |
| (C) | during the second five class days | 70 percent |
| (D) | during the third five class days | 50 percent |
| (E) | during the fourth five class days | 25 percent |
| (F) | after the fourth five class days | None; [and] |

19 (2) if the student withdraws during a [~~summer~~] term or
20 session of more than five weeks but less than 12 weeks:

- | | | |
|-----|--|------------------|
| (A) | prior to the first class day | 100 percent |
| (B) | during the first, second, or third class
23 day | 80 percent |
| (C) | during the fourth, fifth, or sixth class
25 day | 50 percent |
| (D) | seventh day of class and thereafter | None; <u>and</u> |

27 (3) if the student withdraws from a term or session of

1 five weeks or less:

2 (A) prior to the first class day 100 percent

3 (B) during the first class day 80 percent

4 (C) during the second class day 50 percent

5 (D) during the third class day

6 and thereafter None.

7 (c) Separate withdrawal refund schedules may be established
8 for optional fees [~~such as intercollegiate athletics, cultural~~
9 ~~entertainment, parking, and yearbooks~~].

10 (e) A general academic teaching institution or medical and
11 dental unit shall terminate a student's student services and
12 privileges, including [~~such as~~] health services, library
13 privileges, facilities and technology usage, and athletic and
14 cultural entertainment tickets, when the [~~a~~] student withdraws from
15 the institution.

16 SECTION 3. Subsection (g), Section 54.006, Education Code,
17 is repealed.

18 SECTION 4. The change in law made by this Act applies to
19 tuition and mandatory fees charged beginning with the fall 2007
20 semester.

21 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
22 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
23 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
24 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
25 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.