

By: Averitt

S.B. No. 1242

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to tuition exemptions granted by public institutions of
3 higher education to students who have served in certain school
4 district tutoring programs.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 29, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 29.917 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 29.917. STUDENT TUTOR PROGRAM; TUITION EXEMPTION. (a)
9 In this section, "student tutor program" means a tutoring program
10 established under this section.

11 (b) A school district may establish a student tutor program
12 in which a district student in grade nine or above may tutor another
13 student from the same district who is determined, using criteria
14 established under Subsection (h)(4), to be in need of academic
15 assistance. A student tutor program must comply with agency
16 guidelines adopted under Subsection (g)(1).

17 (c) During one or more semesters of high school enrollment,
18 subject to compliance with a standard of behavior adopted under
19 Subsection (h)(6) and other program requirements, any student in
20 grade nine or above, other than a student determined to be in need
21 of academic assistance for any subject area, may volunteer to serve
22 as a tutor in a student tutor program established by the school
23 district in which the student attends school.

24 (d) Before serving as a tutor under this section, a student

1 must successfully complete the training program adopted by the
2 agency under Subsection (g)(2)(A). Based on criteria adopted under
3 Subsection (g)(2)(A), the school district in which the student
4 attends school shall determine whether the student has successfully
5 completed the training program.

6 (e) Tutoring under this section shall be provided in a
7 school district facility. A district employee shall supervise the
8 student tutor program, including each tutoring session.

9 (f) A student tutor program is in addition to any other
10 tutoring, accelerated instruction, mentoring, or similar program
11 required by state or federal law to be provided by a school
12 district.

13 (g) The agency shall adopt:

14 (1) guidelines for a student tutor program; and

15 (2) a training program for:

16 (A) students who volunteer to serve as tutors,
17 including criteria for determining whether a student has
18 successfully completed the training program; and

19 (B) district employees who serve as program
20 supervisors.

21 (h) The board of trustees of each school district that
22 establishes a student tutor program shall adopt policies and
23 procedures for the program, including establishing:

24 (1) one or more district locations at which the
25 program will operate;

26 (2) the hours and days of the week during which the
27 program will operate;

1 (3) the type of supervision by a district employee
2 required;

3 (4) the criteria for determining whether a student is
4 in need of academic assistance;

5 (5) procedures for taking and maintaining records of
6 attendance by a student tutor at:

7 (A) training and other meetings related to the
8 program;

9 (B) tutoring sessions; and

10 (C) any other activities related to the program;
11 and

12 (6) standards of behavior a student tutor must meet
13 during and outside of school.

14 (i) A student who serves as a tutor under this section for at
15 least three hours each school week for a full semester in accordance
16 with Section 54.225 and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
17 rules adopted under that section is entitled as provided by Section
18 54.225 to an exemption from the payment of tuition at an institution
19 of higher education, as defined by Section 61.003.

20 (j) Not later than May 21 and December 21 of each year, to
21 enable the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to determine
22 eligibility for tuition exemptions under Section 54.225, a school
23 district that operates a student tutor program shall submit to the
24 coordinating board written reports that contain the information
25 specified by rules adopted under Section 54.225(e)(2) and posted on
26 the coordinating board's Internet website.

27 SECTION 2. Subchapter D, Chapter 54, Education Code, is

1 amended by adding Section 54.225 to read as follows:

2 Sec. 54.225. STUDENTS WHO SERVED AS HIGH SCHOOL TUTORS. (a)
3 The governing board of an institution of higher education shall
4 exempt from the payment of tuition for a number of semester credit
5 hours determined under Subsection (b) a resident of this state who
6 is enrolled as an undergraduate student at the institution and who
7 served as a tutor in a high school student tutor program under
8 Section 29.917.

9 (b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), a student is
10 entitled to an exemption under this section from the payment of
11 tuition for three semester credit hours for each semester the
12 student served as a tutor in high school in accordance with Section
13 29.917, this section, and rules adopted under Subsection (e).

14 (c) A student is not eligible for an exemption under this
15 section for more than 24 semester credit hours or after earning a
16 bachelor's degree.

17 (d) A student may not make any claim for money or another
18 benefit in exchange for the right to an exemption under this
19 section.

20 (e) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
21 adopt:

22 (1) rules governing the granting or denial of an
23 exemption under this section, including rules relating to:

24 (A) requirements for a student's attendance at
25 activities of a tutor program established under Section 29.917; and

26 (B) determination of eligibility for an
27 exemption;

1 (2) rules specifying the information that is needed
2 from a school district for determining a student's eligibility; and

3 (3) a uniform application form for an exemption under
4 this section.

5 (f) The coordinating board shall post on the board's
6 Internet website a list of eligibility requirements or other
7 eligibility information a school district must submit to the board
8 for purposes of this section.

9 SECTION 3. Not later than October 1, 2007, the Texas
10 Education Agency shall adopt guidelines and a training program for
11 a student tutor program under Section 29.917, Education Code, as
12 added by this Act.

13 SECTION 4. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of this
14 section, Section 54.225, Education Code, as added by this Act,
15 takes effect beginning with the 2008 fall semester.

16 (b) Not later than January 1, 2008, the Texas Higher
17 Education Coordinating Board shall adopt rules and forms for the
18 administration of Section 54.225, Education Code, as added by this
19 Act.

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