

1-1 By: Averitt S.B. No. 1427  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 8, 2007; March 20, 2007, read  
1-3 first time and referred to Subcommittee on Higher Education;  
1-4 April 12, 2007, reported favorably from Committee on Education by  
1-5 the following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; April 12, 2007, sent to  
1-6 printer.)

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

1-9 relating to participation by private or independent institutions of  
1-10 higher education in the tuition equalization grant program.

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

1-12 SECTION 1. Section 61.222, Education Code, is amended to  
1-13 read as follows:

1-14 Sec. 61.222. APPROVED COLLEGES OR UNIVERSITIES  
1-15 [~~INSTITUTIONS~~]. An approved college [~~The coordinating board shall~~  
1-16 ~~approve only those private or independent colleges~~] or university  
1-17 for purposes of this subchapter is a [~~universities that are~~]  
1-18 private or independent institution [~~institutions~~] of higher  
1-19 education as defined by Section 61.003 [~~or are located within this~~  
1-20 ~~state and meet the same program standards and accreditation as~~  
1-21 ~~public institutions of higher education as determined by the~~  
1-22 ~~board~~].

1-23 SECTION 2. Subsection (c), Section 61.2251, Education Code,  
1-24 as added by Chapter 1230, Acts of the 79th Legislature, Regular  
1-25 Session, 2005, is amended to read as follows:

1-26 (c) After qualifying for a tuition equalization grant under  
1-27 Subsection (b), a person may receive a tuition equalization grant  
1-28 in a subsequent academic year in which the person is enrolled at an  
1-29 approved college or university [~~institution~~] only if the person:

1-30 (1) meets the requirements of Subsection (b);

1-31 (2) completed at least:

1-32 (A) 24 semester credit hours in the person's most  
1-33 recent academic year, if the person is enrolled in an undergraduate  
1-34 degree or certificate program; or

1-35 (B) 18 semester credit hours in the person's most  
1-36 recent academic year, if the person is enrolled in a graduate or  
1-37 professional degree program; and

1-38 (3) has earned an overall grade point average of at  
1-39 least 2.5 on a four-point scale or the equivalent on coursework  
1-40 previously attempted at public or private institutions of higher  
1-41 education.

1-42 SECTION 3. Subsection (a), Section 61.227, Education Code,  
1-43 is amended to read as follows:

1-44 (a) On receipt of a certification of the amount of financial  
1-45 need from an approved college or university [~~institution~~], the  
1-46 coordinating board shall certify the amount of the tuition  
1-47 equalization grant based on financial need but not to exceed a grant  
1-48 amount of more than that specified in the appropriation by the  
1-49 legislature, or more than the difference between the tuition at the  
1-50 private institution attended and the tuition at public colleges and  
1-51 universities.

1-52 SECTION 4. Subsection (a), Section 61.756, Education Code,  
1-53 is amended to read as follows:

1-54 (a) The board, in consultation with the advisory committee  
1-55 appointed under Section 61.757, shall determine the maximum amount  
1-56 of any scholarship awarded under this subchapter. The scholarship  
1-57 may be spent by the recipient on the expenses for tuition, fees,  
1-58 books, supplies, and living expenses incurred by the student in  
1-59 connection with the student's fifth year of an accounting program.  
1-60 Scholarships shall be made available to eligible students  
1-61 attending:

1-62 (1) any institution of higher education; or

1-63 (2) any nonprofit independent institution that is an  
1-64 approved college or university for purposes of the tuition

2-1 equalization grant program under Subchapter F [~~by the board under~~  
2-2 ~~Section 61.222~~].

2-3 SECTION 5. Subdivision (3), Section 487.101, Government  
2-4 Code, is amended to read as follows:

2-5 (3) "Postsecondary educational institution" means:

2-6 (A) an institution of higher education, as  
2-7 defined by Section 61.003, Education Code;

2-8 (B) a nonprofit, independent institution that is  
2-9 an approved college or university for purposes of the tuition  
2-10 equalization grant program under Subchapter F, Chapter 61 [~~under~~  
2-11 ~~Section 61.222~~], Education Code; or

2-12 (C) a nonprofit, health-related school or  
2-13 program accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and  
2-14 Schools, the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, the American  
2-15 Osteopathic Association, the Board of Nurse Examiners, or, in the  
2-16 case of allied health, an accrediting body recognized by the United  
2-17 States Department of Education.

2-18 SECTION 6. Subdivision (2), Section 487.151, Government  
2-19 Code, is amended to read as follows:

2-20 (2) "Postsecondary educational institution" means:

2-21 (A) an institution of higher education, as  
2-22 defined by Section 61.003, Education Code;

2-23 (B) a nonprofit, independent institution that is  
2-24 an approved college or university for purposes of the tuition  
2-25 equalization grant program under Subchapter F, Chapter 61 [~~under~~  
2-26 ~~Section 61.222~~], Education Code; or

2-27 (C) a nonprofit, health-related school or  
2-28 program accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and  
2-29 Schools, the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, the American  
2-30 Osteopathic Association, the Board of Nurse Examiners, or, in the  
2-31 case of allied health, an accrediting body recognized by the United  
2-32 States Department of Education.

2-33 SECTION 7. The change in law made by this Act applies  
2-34 beginning with tuition equalization grants awarded for the 2008  
2-35 fall semester. Grants awarded for a semester or term before the  
2-36 2008 fall semester are covered by the applicable law in effect  
2-37 immediately before the effective date of this Act, and the former  
2-38 law is continued in effect for that purpose.

2-39 SECTION 8. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
2-40 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
2-41 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
2-42 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
2-43 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

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