

House Bill 2702
Senate Amendments
Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION

SECTION 1. Section 54.2111(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A student is exempt from the payment of tuition and fees authorized by this chapter if the student:

(1) was adopted; and

(2) was the subject of an adoption assistance agreement under Subchapter D, Chapter 162, Family Code, that:

(A) provided monthly payments and medical assistance benefits; and

(B) was not limited to providing only for the reimbursement of nonrecurring expenses, including reasonable and necessary adoption fees, court costs, attorney's fees, and other expenses directly related to the legal adoption of the child.

No equivalent provision.

SENATE VERSION

Same as House version.

CONFERENCE

SECTION __. (a) Section 162.304, Family Code, is amended by adding Subsections (b-1), (b-2), and (g) to read as follows:

(b-1) The department shall pay a \$150 subsidy each month for the premiums for health benefits coverage for a child with respect to whom a court has entered a final order of adoption if the child:

(1) was in the conservatorship of the department at the time of the child's adoptive placement;

(2) after the adoption, is not eligible for medical assistance under Chapter 32, Human Resources Code; and

(3) is younger than 18 years of age.

(b-2) The executive commissioner of the Health and

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Human Services Commission shall adopt rules necessary to implement Subsection (b-1), including rules that:

(1) limit eligibility for the subsidy under that subsection to a child whose adoptive family income is less than 300 percent of the federal poverty level;

(2) provide for the manner in which the department shall pay the subsidy under that subsection; and

(3) specify any documentation required to be provided by an adoptive parent as proof that the subsidy is used to obtain and maintain health benefits coverage for the adopted child.

(g) A child for whom a subsidy is provided under Subsection (b-1) for premiums for health benefits coverage and who does not receive any other subsidy under this section is not considered to be the subject of an adoption assistance agreement for any other purpose, including for determining eligibility for the exemption from payment of tuition and fees for higher education under Section 54.2111, Education Code.

(b) The change in law made by this section to Section 162.304, Family Code, applies only to financial and medical assistance available under Section 162.304, Family Code, as amended by this section, for a child for whom a final order of adoption is entered on or after the effective date of this section. Financial and medical assistance for a child for whom a final order of adoption is entered before the effective date of this section is governed by the law in effect on the date the order was entered, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

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(c) This section takes effect September 1, 2007.

SECTION 2. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of this section, the change in law made by this Act applies beginning with tuition and fees charged at a public institution of higher education for the 2007 fall semester. Tuition and fees charged for an academic period before the 2007 fall semester are covered by the law in effect immediately before the effective date of this Act, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

(b) The change in law made by this Act does not apply to a student who was enrolled in a public institution of higher education and qualified for an exemption from tuition and fees under Section 54.2111(a), Education Code, for any academic term of the 2006-2007 academic year. A student described by this subsection is entitled to an exemption from tuition and fees under Section 54.2111(a), Education Code, as that section existed immediately before the effective date of this Act, until the earlier of:

(1) the date the student completes the degree program in which the student was last enrolled in the 2006-2007 academic year or another degree program of the same level; or

(2) the fourth anniversary of the date the student initially enrolled in the degree program in which the student was last enrolled in the 2006-2007 academic year.

Same as House version.

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

SENATE VERSION

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

CONFERENCE