

By: Dutton

H.B. No. 351

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to an exemption from or refund of tuition and fees for  
3 lower-division students enrolled in a general academic teaching  
4 institution who maintain a high grade-point average.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 54, Education Code, is  
7 amended by adding Section 54.220 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 54.220. EXEMPTION FOR RESIDENT LOWER-DIVISION  
9 STUDENTS AT GENERAL ACADEMIC TEACHING INSTITUTIONS FOR MAINTAINING  
10 HIGH ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE. (a) In this section, "general academic  
11 teaching institution" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

12 (b) An entering freshman student enrolled in a general  
13 academic teaching institution is entitled to a refund of the  
14 tuition and required fees paid by the student under this chapter for  
15 the first semester or term for which the student enrolls at that  
16 institution if the student:

17 (1) graduated from a private high school, including a  
18 home school, or a public high school in this state;

19 (2) is classified as a Texas resident under Subchapter  
20 B; and

21 (3) for all courses attempted that initial semester or  
22 term earns a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a four-point  
23 scale or the equivalent.

24 (c) To receive a refund under Subsection (b), the student

1 must apply to the institution for the refund in the manner required  
2 by the institution not later than the first anniversary of the last  
3 class day of the semester or term.

4 (d) A student enrolled in a general academic teaching  
5 institution is exempt from the payment of tuition and required fees  
6 authorized by this chapter for a semester or term of the student's  
7 first two academic years, other than a semester or term covered by  
8 Subsection (b), at that institution if the student:

9 (1) graduated from a private high school, including a  
10 home school, or a public high school in this state;

11 (2) is classified as a Texas resident under Subchapter  
12 B; and

13 (3) maintains an overall grade-point average of at  
14 least 3.0 on a four-point scale or the equivalent for all prior  
15 coursework attempted at the institution.

16 (e) A student receiving an exemption under this section for  
17 one or more semesters or terms may not enroll for the student's  
18 third academic year at the institution until the student passes an  
19 examination to be selected and administered by the institution.

20 (f) An institution to which this section applies shall fund  
21 tuition and fee refunds and exemptions under this section from  
22 available institutional funds or from available local funds or  
23 other amounts appropriated to the institution, without regard to  
24 whether those appropriations are specifically designated for this  
25 purpose.

26 (g) A person may not receive a refund or exemption under  
27 this section for a semester or term that begins after the 2028-2029

1 academic year. This section expires September 1, 2030.

2 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with tuition and fees  
3 charged for the 2009 fall semester.

4 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
8 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.