

By: Veasey

H.B. No. 380

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to tuition and fees charged to employees of public
3 institutions of higher education and a spouse, child, or dependent
4 of those employees.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 54.059, Education Code, is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 Sec. 54.059. FACULTY AND DEPENDENTS. (a) In this section:

9 (1) "Child" means a child of any age.

10 (2) "Faculty member" has the meaning assigned by
11 Section 51.917.

12 (b) A faculty member or other employee [teacher or
13 professor] of an institution of higher education[~~r~~] and the spouse,
14 child, or dependent [and children] of the employee who enrolls in
15 any institution of higher education is [such a teacher or
16 professor, are] entitled to pay [register in an institution of
17 higher education by paying the] tuition [fee] and [other] fees at
18 the rate established by the governing board of the institution at
19 which the person is enrolled. That rate may not exceed one-half of
20 the rate charged by the institution to a similarly situated
21 resident student who is not entitled to pay tuition at a reduced
22 rate under this section [or charges required for Texas residents
23 without regard to the length of time the teacher or professor has
24 resided in Texas]. For purposes of this subsection, students are

1 similarly situated if they share the same residency status, degree
2 program, course load, course level, tuition exemption status, and
3 other circumstances affecting the tuition charged to the student.

4 (c) A faculty member or other employee [~~teacher or~~
5 ~~professor~~] of an institution of higher education and a spouse,
6 child, or dependent of the employee is [~~the teacher's or professor's~~
7 ~~family are~~] entitled to the benefits provided by [~~benefit of~~] this
8 section only if:

9 (1) the employee [~~teacher or professor~~] is employed at
10 least one-half time on a regular monthly salary basis by an
11 institution of higher education; and

12 (2) neither the employee nor the employee's spouse
13 holds an elective public office in this state.

14 (d) An institution of higher education may not consider a
15 person's eligibility for the benefits provided by this section in
16 determining whether to admit the person to the institution.

17 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies
18 beginning with tuition and fees charged for the 2009 fall semester.

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