

By: Lucio III

H.B. No. 439

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the eligibility of students who participate in certain
3 internship programs for tuition rebates offered by general academic
4 teaching institutions.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 54.0065(a), Education Code, is amended
7 to read as follows:

8 (a) A qualified student is eligible for a rebate of a
9 portion of the undergraduate tuition the student has paid if the
10 student:

11 (1) is awarded a baccalaureate degree from a general
12 academic teaching institution within the period prescribed by
13 Section 56.462(1)(A) or (B), as applicable, to qualify for
14 forgiveness of a Texas B-On-time loan; and

15 (2) has attempted no more than three hours in excess of
16 the minimum number of semester credit hours required to complete
17 the degree program:

18 (A) including:

19 (i) transfer credits; and

20 (ii) course credit earned exclusively by
21 examination, except that, for purposes of this subsection, only the
22 number of semester credit hours earned exclusively by examination
23 in excess of nine semester credit hours is treated as hours
24 attempted; and

- 1 (B) excluding:
2 (i) course credit that is earned to satisfy
3 requirements for a Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program
4 but that is not required to complete the degree program; and
5 (ii) course credit earned through
6 participation in an optional internship program sponsored or
7 approved by an institution of higher education, if the student
8 earned the credit while enrolled at that institution.

9 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only
10 to a student who is awarded a baccalaureate degree from a general
11 academic teaching institution on or after the effective date of
12 this Act.

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