

By: McClendon

H.B. No. 2140

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to tuition and fee exemptions at public institutions of
3 higher education for certain veterans of the Texas State Guard.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 54.203(a), Education Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (a) The governing board of each institution of higher
8 education shall exempt the following persons from the payment of
9 all dues, fees, and charges, including fees for correspondence
10 courses but excluding general deposit fees, student services fees,
11 and any fees or charges for lodging, board, or clothing, provided
12 the persons seeking the exemptions were citizens of Texas at the
13 time they entered the services indicated and have resided in Texas
14 for at least the period of 12 months before the date of
15 registration:

16 (1) all nurses and honorably discharged members of the
17 armed forces of the United States who served during the
18 Spanish-American War or during World War I;

19 (2) all nurses, members of the Women's Army Auxiliary
20 Corps, members of the Women's Auxiliary Volunteer Emergency
21 Service, and all honorably discharged members of the armed forces
22 of the United States who served during World War II except those who
23 were discharged from service because they were over the age of 38 or
24 because of a personal request on the part of the person that the

1 person [~~he~~] be discharged from service;

2 (3) all honorably discharged men and women of the
3 armed forces of the United States who served during the national
4 emergency which began on June 27, 1950, and which is referred to as
5 the Korean War; [~~and~~]

6 (4) all persons who were honorably discharged from the
7 armed forces of the United States after serving on active military
8 duty, excluding training, for more than 180 days and who served a
9 portion of their active duty during:

10 (A) the Cold War which began on the date of the
11 termination of the national emergency cited in Subdivision (3) [~~of~~
12 ~~this subsection~~];

13 (B) the Vietnam era which began on December 21,
14 1961, and ended on May 7, 1975;

15 (C) the Grenada and Lebanon era which began on
16 August 24, 1982, and ended on July 31, 1984;

17 (D) the Panama era which began on December 20,
18 1989, and ended on January 21, 1990;

19 (E) the Persian Gulf War which began on August 2,
20 1990, and ends on the date thereafter prescribed by Presidential
21 proclamation or September 1, 1997, whichever occurs first;

22 (F) the national emergency by reason of certain
23 terrorist attacks that began on September 11, 2001; or

24 (G) any future national emergency declared in
25 accordance with federal law; and

26 (5) all persons who were honorably discharged from the
27 Texas State Guard after serving on active duty, excluding training,

1 for more than 180 days and who served a portion of that active duty
2 on or after September 1, 1971.

3 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies
4 beginning with tuition and fees charged for the 2009 fall semester.
5 Tuition and fees charged for an academic term or semester before the
6 2009 fall semester are covered by the law in effect immediately
7 before the effective date of this Act, and the former law is
8 continued in effect for that purpose.

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