

By: Lewis, Cook

H.B. No. 2304

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to tuition and fee exemptions at public institutions of  
3 higher education for students who have been under the  
4 conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective  
5 Services.

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

7 SECTION 1. The heading to Section 54.211, Education Code,  
8 is amended to read as follows:

9 Sec. 54.211. EXEMPTIONS FOR STUDENTS UNDER CONSERVATORSHIP  
10 OF DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES [~~IN FOSTER OR OTHER~~  
11 ~~RESIDENTIAL CARE~~].

12 SECTION 2. Section 54.211(a), Education Code, is amended to  
13 read as follows:

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

16 (1) was [~~in foster care or other residential care~~]  
17 under the conservatorship of the Department of Family and  
18 Protective Services [~~on or after~~]:

19 (A) on the day preceding the student's 18th  
20 birthday;

21 (B) on or after the day of the student's 14th  
22 birthday, if the student was also eligible for adoption on or after  
23 that day; [~~or~~]

24 (C) on the day the student graduated from high

1 school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma; or  
2 (D) during an academic term in which the student  
3 was enrolled in a dual credit course or other course for which a  
4 high school student may earn joint high school and college credit;  
5 and

6 (2) enrolls in an institution of higher education as  
7 an undergraduate student or in a dual credit course or other course  
8 for which a high school student may earn joint high school and  
9 college credit not later than:

10 (A) the third anniversary of the date the student  
11 was discharged from the conservatorship of the Department of Family  
12 and Protective Services [~~foster or other residential care~~], the  
13 date the student graduated from high school, or the date the student  
14 received the equivalent of a high school diploma, whichever date is  
15 earliest; or

16 (B) the student's 21st birthday.

17 SECTION 3. Section 54.211, Education Code, as amended by  
18 this Act, applies beginning with tuition and other fees charged for  
19 the 2009 fall semester. Tuition and other fees charged for an  
20 academic period before that semester are covered by the law in  
21 effect immediately before the effective date of this Act, and the  
22 former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

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