

1-1 By: Thibaut, Guillen (Senate Sponsor - Whitmire) H.B. No. 2347
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 29, 2009;
1-3 May 4, 2009, read first time and referred to Committee on Higher
1-4 Education; May 25, 2009, reported adversely, with favorable
1-5 Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0;
1-6 May 25, 2009, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 2347 By: Duncan

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to tuition and laboratory fee exemptions at public
1-11 institutions of higher education for certain peace officers
1-12 enrolled in criminal justice or law enforcement management-related
1-13 course work.

1-14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-15 SECTION 1. Section 54.208, Education Code, is amended to
1-16 read as follows:

1-17 Sec. 54.208. FIREFIGHTERS AND PEACE OFFICERS ~~[FIREMEN]~~
1-18 ENROLLED IN CERTAIN ~~[FIRE SCIENCE]~~ COURSES. (a) The governing
1-19 board of an institution of higher education ~~[boards of the state~~
1-20 ~~institutions of collegiate rank supported in whole or in part by~~
1-21 ~~public funds]~~ shall exempt from the payment of tuition and
1-22 laboratory fees a student ~~[any person]~~ who is employed as a
1-23 firefighter ~~[fireman]~~ by a ~~[any]~~ political subdivision of this
1-24 ~~[the]~~ state and who enrolls in a course or courses offered as part
1-25 of a fire science curriculum.

1-26 (b) The governing board of an institution of higher
1-27 education shall exempt from the payment of tuition and laboratory
1-28 fees charged by the institution for a criminal justice or law
1-29 enforcement course or courses an undergraduate student who:

1-30 (1) is employed as a peace officer by this state or by
1-31 a political subdivision of this state;

1-32 (2) is enrolled in a criminal justice or law
1-33 enforcement-related degree program at the institution;

1-34 (3) is making satisfactory academic progress toward
1-35 the student's degree as determined by the institution; and

1-36 (4) applies for the exemption at least one week before
1-37 the last date of the institution's regular registration period for
1-38 the applicable semester or other term.

1-39 (c) Notwithstanding Subsection (b), a student may not
1-40 receive an exemption under that subsection for any course if the
1-41 student has previously attempted a number of semester credit hours
1-42 for courses taken at any institution of higher education while
1-43 classified as a resident student for tuition purposes in excess of
1-44 the maximum number of those hours specified by Section 61.0595(a)
1-45 as eligible for funding under the formulas established under
1-46 Section 61.059.

1-47 (d) Notwithstanding Subsection (b), the governing board of
1-48 an institution of higher education may not provide exemptions under
1-49 that subsection to students enrolled in a specific class in a number
1-50 that exceeds 20 percent of the maximum student enrollment
1-51 designated by the institution for that class.

1-52 (e) An ~~[The]~~ exemption provided under this section does not
1-53 apply to deposits that ~~[which]~~ may be required in the nature of
1-54 security for the return or proper care of property loaned for the
1-55 use of students.

1-56 (f) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
1-57 adopt:

1-58 (1) rules governing the granting or denial of an
1-59 exemption under this section, including rules relating to the
1-60 determination of a student's eligibility for an exemption; and

1-61 (2) a uniform listing of degree programs covered by
1-62 the exemption under this section.

1-63 (g) If the legislature does not specifically appropriate

2-1 funds to an institution of higher education in an amount sufficient
2-2 to pay the institution's costs in complying with this section for a
2-3 semester, the governing board of the institution of higher
2-4 education shall report to the Senate Finance Committee and the
2-5 House Appropriations Committee the cost to the institution of
2-6 complying with this section for that semester.

2-7 SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act to Section
2-8 54.208, Education Code, apply beginning with tuition and laboratory
2-9 fees charged for the 2011 fall semester. Tuition and laboratory
2-10 fees charged for an academic period before the 2011 fall semester
2-11 are covered by the law in effect immediately before the effective
2-12 date of this Act, and the former law is continued in effect for that
2-13 purpose.

2-14 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect January 1, 2011.

2-15 * * * * *