

By: Coleman

H.B. No. 2955

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the rates of tuition charged to students of public institutions of higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Section 54.051(c), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) Unless a different rate is specified by this section, tuition for a resident student at a general academic teaching institution is \$64 [~~\$50~~] per semester credit hour.

SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 54, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 54.0512 to read as follows:

Sec. 54.0512. INTERIM TUITION RATES. (a) Notwithstanding Section 54.051, tuition for the applicable academic year described by this section is as provided by this section.

(b) Tuition for a resident student at a general academic teaching institution for whom the rate of tuition would, in the absence of this section, be the rate provided by Section 54.051(c) is:

(1) for the 2009-2010 academic year, \$54 per semester credit hour;

(2) for the 2010-2011 academic year, \$56 per semester credit hour;

(3) for the 2011-2012 academic year, \$58 per semester credit hour;

1           (4) for the 2012-2013 academic year, \$60 per semester  
2 credit hour;

3           (5) for the 2013-2014 academic year, \$62 per semester  
4 credit hour; and

5           (6) for the 2014-2015 academic year, \$64 per semester  
6 credit hour.

7           (c) Tuition for academic years not specifically covered by  
8 this section is at the rates provided by Section 54.051.

9           SECTION 3. Sections 54.0513(a) and (b), Education Code, are  
10 amended to read as follows:

11           (a) In addition to amounts that a governing board of an  
12 institution of higher education is authorized to charge as tuition  
13 under the other provisions of this chapter, the governing board[~~7~~  
14 ~~under the terms the governing board considers appropriate,~~] may  
15 charge any student for an academic period an amount designated as  
16 tuition not to exceed the amount charged to the student under  
17 Section 54.051 or 54.0512, as applicable, for that academic period  
18 ~~[that the governing board considers necessary for the effective~~  
19 ~~operation of the institution].~~

20           (b) Subject to the limit provided by Subsection (a) on the  
21 amount designated as tuition charged under this section, a [A]  
22 governing board may set a different tuition rate under this section  
23 for each program and course level offered by each institution of  
24 higher education[~~7~~ ~~A governing board may set a different tuition~~  
25 ~~rate]~~ as the governing board considers appropriate to increase  
26 graduation rates, encourage efficient use of facilities, ~~[or]~~  
27 enhance employee performance, or further another legitimate

1 purpose of the institution.

2 SECTION 4. Sections 54.0515(e) and (f), Education Code, are  
3 amended to read as follows:

4 (e) It is the legislature's intent that each institution of  
5 higher education [~~, as a condition to tuition deregulation under~~  
6 ~~Section 54.0513,~~] reasonably implement the following:

7 (1) each institution shall make satisfactory progress  
8 towards the goals provided in its master plan for higher education  
9 and in "Closing the Gaps," the state's master plan for higher  
10 education; and

11 (2) each institution shall meet acceptable  
12 performance criteria, including measures such as graduation rates,  
13 retention rates, enrollment growth, educational quality, efforts  
14 to enhance minority participation, opportunities for financial  
15 aid, and affordability.

16 (f) The committee shall:

17 (1) meet at the call of either chair;

18 (2) monitor and regularly report to the legislature on  
19 each institution of higher education's compliance with the  
20 requirements of Subsection (e); and

21 (3) receive and review information concerning the  
22 affordability and accessibility of higher education [~~, including~~  
23 ~~the impact of tuition deregulation~~].

24 SECTION 5. Subchapter B, Chapter 56, Education Code, is  
25 repealed.

26 SECTION 6. (a) The changes in law made by this Act apply  
27 beginning with tuition charged by an institution of higher

1 education for the 2009-2010 academic year. Tuition charged by an  
2 institution of higher education in an academic year before that  
3 academic year is covered by the law in effect before the effective  
4 date of this Act, and the former law is continued in effect for that  
5 purpose.

6 (b) Tuition set aside under Subchapter B, Chapter 56,  
7 Education Code, before the 2009-2010 academic year that was not  
8 used as provided by that subchapter before that academic year shall  
9 be used as provided by that subchapter as it existed immediately  
10 before the effective date of this Act, and that subchapter is  
11 continued in effect for that purpose.

12 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
13 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
14 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
15 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
16 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.