

By: Villarreal

H.B. No. 3939

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to limitations on the total amount of tuition and
3 mandatory academic fees charged to resident undergraduate students
4 at general academic teaching institutions.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 54, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 54.017 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 54.017. LIMITATION ON TUITION AND FEES CHARGED TO
9 RESIDENT UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS AT GENERAL ACADEMIC TEACHING
10 INSTITUTIONS. (a) In this section:

11 (1) "Academic year" includes the summer session that
12 follows the spring semester of an academic year.

13 (2) "General academic teaching institution" has the
14 meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

15 (3) "Tuition" includes:

16 (A) tuition for which the rates are prescribed by
17 this chapter; and

18 (B) tuition charged by a general academic
19 teaching institution under Section 54.0513 or another law
20 authorizing an institution to establish tuition rates.

21 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter,
22 the total amount of tuition and mandatory academic fees charged by a
23 general academic teaching institution to a resident undergraduate
24 student for an academic year, excluding any amount for which the

1 student received financial aid other than student loans, may not
2 exceed an amount equal to eight percent of the student's household
3 adjusted gross income for the most recent federal tax year that
4 ended before the start of that academic year.

5 (c) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
6 adopt rules for the administration of this section, including rules
7 prescribing the procedure by which an institution may request
8 necessary income information from a student.

9 SECTION 2. Section 54.017, Education Code, as added by this
10 Act, applies beginning with tuition charged by public institutions
11 of higher education for the 2010-2011 academic year. Tuition
12 charged by an institution of higher education in an academic year
13 before that academic year is covered by the law in effect before the
14 effective date of this Act, and the former law is continued in
15 effect for that purpose.

16 SECTION 3. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
17 shall adopt the rules required by Section 54.017, Education Code,
18 as added by this Act, as soon as practicable after the effective
19 date of this Act.

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