

By: Turner of Tarrant, Leibowitz, Moody

H.B. No. 3951

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to requiring a public institution of higher education to  
3 designate or employ a person trained in student financial  
4 assistance programs for military veterans and their families.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 56, Education Code, is  
7 amended by adding Section 56.006 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 56.006. EMPLOYEE TRAINED IN STUDENT FINANCIAL  
9 ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS AND FAMILIES. (a) Each  
10 institution of higher education shall ensure that one or more  
11 persons employed by the institution is trained:

12 (1) in understanding state and federal student  
13 financial assistance programs available to military veterans or  
14 their family members, especially programs specifically applicable  
15 to military veterans or their family members; and

16 (2) in assisting military veterans and eligible family  
17 members in understanding and obtaining the benefits available under  
18 those programs.

19 (b) A person described by Subsection (a) must be available  
20 to assist persons as described by Subsection (a)(2) during regular  
21 business hours at the financial aid or other office to which the  
22 person is assigned.

23 (c) The legislature shall ensure that each institution  
24 receives adequate funding to cover the additional costs

1 attributable to the requirements of this section and may  
2 appropriate money for that purpose.

3 SECTION 2. A public institution of higher education shall  
4 comply with Section 56.006, Education Code, as added by this Act,  
5 concerning employment of a person to provide student financial  
6 assistance for military veterans and their families not later than  
7 January 1, 2010.

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