

1-1 By: Turner of Tarrant, Leibowitz, Moody H.B. No. 3951
1-2 (Senate Sponsor - Davis)
1-3 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 7, 2009;
1-4 May 8, 2009, read first time and referred to Committee on Higher
1-5 Education; May 13, 2009, reported favorably by the following vote:
1-6 Yeas 4, Nays 0; May 13, 2009, sent to printer.)

1-7 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-8 AN ACT

1-9 relating to requiring a public institution of higher education to
1-10 designate or employ a person trained in student financial
1-11 assistance programs for military veterans and their families.

1-12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-13 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 56, Education Code, is
1-14 amended by adding Section 56.006 to read as follows:

1-15 Sec. 56.006. EMPLOYEE TRAINED IN STUDENT FINANCIAL
1-16 ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS AND FAMILIES. (a) Each
1-17 institution of higher education shall ensure that one or more
1-18 persons employed by the institution is trained:

1-19 (1) in understanding state and federal student
1-20 financial assistance programs available to military veterans or
1-21 their family members, especially programs specifically applicable
1-22 to military veterans or their family members; and

1-23 (2) in assisting military veterans and eligible family
1-24 members in understanding and obtaining the benefits available under
1-25 those programs.

1-26 (b) A person described by Subsection (a) must be available
1-27 to assist persons as described by Subsection (a)(2) during regular
1-28 business hours at the financial aid or other office to which the
1-29 person is assigned.

1-30 (c) The legislature shall ensure that each institution
1-31 receives adequate funding to cover the additional costs
1-32 attributable to the requirements of this section and may
1-33 appropriate money for that purpose.

1-34 SECTION 2. A public institution of higher education shall
1-35 comply with Section 56.006, Education Code, as added by this Act,
1-36 concerning employment of a person to provide student financial
1-37 assistance for military veterans and their families not later than
1-38 January 1, 2010.

1-39 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
1-40 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
1-41 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
1-42 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
1-43 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

1-44 * * * * *