

By: Kleinschmidt

H.B. No. 3968

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to reduced tuition rates at public institutions of higher education for certain children of state employees.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 54, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 54.0615 to read as follows:

Sec. 54.0615. REDUCED TUITION RATES FOR CERTAIN CHILDREN OF STATE EMPLOYEES. (a) This section applies to tuition charged in a semester or other academic term to a resident student of an institution of higher education:

(1) who is 23 years of age or younger; and

(2) whose parent is employed full-time by this state or an agency of this state and has been so employed for at least six months before the semester or other term begins.

(b) An institution of higher education shall charge a student to whom this section applies a total amount of tuition, including designated tuition under Section 54.0513, that is at least 10 percent less than the amount that would otherwise be charged to the student.

(c) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall adopt rules for the administration of this section.

SECTION 2. Section 54.0615, Education Code, as added by this Act, applies beginning with tuition charged by an institution of higher education for the 2009 fall semester. If a person who

1 becomes eligible for a reduced tuition rate in that semester under
2 that section has paid the tuition for that semester, the
3 institution of higher education shall refund to the student the
4 excess amount of the tuition paid. Tuition for a term or semester
5 before the 2009 fall semester is covered by the law in effect
6 immediately before the effective date of this Act, and the former
7 law is continued in effect for that purpose.

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.