

By: Naishtat

H.B. No. 4556

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 4556:

By: Howard of Travis

C.S.H.B. No. 4556

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to measures to promote the pursuit of higher education by
3 AmeriCorps participants.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is
6 amended by adding Section 61.0904 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 61.0904. INCENTIVES TO PROMOTE HIGHER EDUCATION BY
8 AMERICORPS PARTICIPANTS. (a) The board shall develop measures to
9 promote the pursuit of postsecondary education at institutions of
10 higher education by current or former AmeriCorps participants.

11 (b) The board shall coordinate with institutions of higher
12 education to promote the inclusion of information regarding the
13 availability of Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards to AmeriCorps
14 participants in written materials provided to prospective students
15 and in financial aid application or informational materials.

16 (c) Using money available to the board for student financial
17 aid, including any money appropriated for purposes of this section
18 or other money available to the board, including gifts, grants,
19 donations, or federal funds, the board may develop and administer a
20 program of financial assistance or other measures as the board
21 considers appropriate to provide incentives to AmeriCorps
22 participants to pursue postsecondary education at institutions of
23 higher education. The program may include scholarships, grants
24 that match any money received from a Segal AmeriCorps Education

1 Award, or other incentives such as reimbursement to institutions
2 that waive application fees or other costs for applicants or
3 students who are current or former AmeriCorps participants.

4 (d) The board shall examine whether, consistent with
5 applicable academic standards, it is feasible for institutions of
6 higher education to grant academic credit for all or part of a
7 student's AmeriCorps service, and shall make recommendations for
8 that purpose to institutions consistent with the board's findings.

9 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
10 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
11 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
12 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
13 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.