

By: Lucio III

H.B. No. 4626

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to establishing scholarships for members of a Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) attending public institutions of higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter FF to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER FF. SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MEMBERS OF A RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS (ROTC)

Sec. 61.9771. SCHOLARSHIPS. The board shall establish and administer, in accordance with this subchapter and board rules, scholarships for students who are:

(1) members of a Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC); and

(2) enrolled in an undergraduate program at an institution of higher education.

Sec. 61.9772. ELIGIBILITY; NOMINATION AND SELECTION. (a) To be eligible to receive an initial scholarship under this subchapter, a student must:

(1) have earned a grade point average of at least 3.5 on a four-point scale or the equivalent for each year of high school;

(2) graduate from a public or private high school in this state;

1 (3) demonstrate leadership abilities through
2 participation in community service, extracurricular activities, or
3 other activities, as determined by the board;

4 (4) be enrolled as a freshman in an institution of
5 higher education;

6 (5) enroll in and be a member in good standing of a
7 Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program while enrolled in
8 an institution of higher education, regardless of whether the
9 student pursues a military obligation; and

10 (6) be nominated for a scholarship by a state senator
11 or state representative.

12 (b) In each year, each state senator may nominate up to four
13 students to receive an initial scholarship under this subchapter,
14 and each state representative may nominate up to two students to
15 receive an initial scholarship under this subchapter. From the
16 students nominated, the coordinating board by lottery shall select
17 the students who receive an initial scholarship in a number
18 determined by the board under Section 61.9773.

19 (c) For a student to continue to receive a scholarship
20 awarded under this subchapter, the student must maintain a
21 cumulative grade point average of at least 3.5 on a four-point scale
22 or the equivalent for each semester the student is enrolled in an
23 institution of higher education.

24 Sec. 61.9773. RULES. (a) The board shall adopt rules as
25 necessary for the administration of this subchapter, including
26 rules regarding the eligibility criteria, the selection of
27 recipients by lottery, and the manner in which the amount of a

1 scholarship is determined.

2 (b) In determining the amount of a scholarship awarded under
3 this subchapter, the board shall consider:

4 (1) the financial need of the student; and

5 (2) other financial aid available to the student.

6 (c) The board shall determine the maximum amount of a
7 scholarship awarded under this subchapter and the number of
8 eligible students who may receive a scholarship, considering funds
9 available.

10 (d) The board by rule shall determine the manner in which
11 the scholarship payments are made.

12 Sec. 61.9774. USE OF SCHOLARSHIP; LIMITATION. (a) A
13 scholarship may be spent by the recipient only to cover all or part
14 of the costs of attendance, including tuition, fees, expenses for
15 books and supplies, and living expenses, incurred by the recipient
16 in connection with enrollment at an institution of higher
17 education.

18 (b) A person may not receive a scholarship under this
19 subchapter for more than a cumulative total of 150 credit hours or
20 after being awarded a baccalaureate degree, whichever occurs first.

21 Sec. 61.9775. FUNDING. The board shall administer this
22 subchapter using available appropriations and gifts, grants, and
23 donations made for the purposes of this subchapter.

24 SECTION 2. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
25 shall award scholarships under Subchapter FF, Chapter 61, Education
26 Code, as added by this Act, beginning with the 2010-2011 academic
27 year. The coordinating board shall adopt the rules required by that

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1 subchapter as soon as practicable after this Act takes effect.

2 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect January 1, 2010.