

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 43

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to tuition and fee exemptions at public institutions of  
3 higher education for students who have been in foster care or  
4 certain other residential care.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 54.211(a), Education Code, is amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 (a) A student is exempt from the payment of tuition and fees  
9 authorized in this chapter, including tuition and fees charged by  
10 an institution of higher education for a dual credit course or other  
11 course for which a high school student may earn joint high school  
12 and college credit, if the student:

13 (1) was in foster care or other residential care under  
14 the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective  
15 Services [~~on or after~~]:

16 (A) on the day preceding the student's 18th  
17 birthday;

18 (B) on or after the day of the student's 14th  
19 birthday, if the student was also eligible for adoption on or after  
20 that day; or

21 (C) on the day the student graduated from high  
22 school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma; and

23 (2) enrolls in an institution of higher education as  
24 an undergraduate student not later than[+]

1                   ~~[(A) the third anniversary of the date the~~  
2 ~~student was discharged from the foster or other residential care,~~  
3 ~~the date the student graduated from high school, or the date the~~  
4 ~~student received the equivalent of a high school diploma, whichever~~  
5 ~~date is earliest, or~~

6                   ~~[(B)]~~ the student's 25th ~~[21st]~~ birthday.

7           SECTION 2. Section 54.211, Education Code, as amended by  
8 this Act, applies beginning with tuition and other fees charged for  
9 the 2009 fall semester. Tuition and other fees charged for an  
10 academic period before that semester are covered by the law in  
11 effect immediately before the effective date of this Act, and the  
12 former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

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