

By: Shapleigh

S.B. No. 191

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to tuition and fee exemptions for undergraduate students  
3 eligible for automatic admission to general academic teaching  
4 institutions.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 54, Education Code, is  
7 amended by adding Section 54.202 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 54.202. HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES ELIGIBLE FOR AUTOMATIC  
9 ADMISSION. (a) In this section:

10 (1) "Coordinating board" means the Texas Higher  
11 Education Coordinating Board.

12 (2) "General academic teaching institution" has the  
13 meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

14 (b) This section applies only to a person who:

15 (1) qualifies for automatic admission under Section  
16 51.803; and

17 (2) is admitted to and enrolls in a general academic  
18 teaching institution.

19 (c) Each general academic teaching institution shall exempt  
20 a person to whom this section applies from the payment of tuition  
21 and special course fees, laboratory fees, and student teaching  
22 fees.

23 (d) The exemption from tuition under Subsection (c) does not  
24 apply to designated tuition charged under Section 54.0513.

1       (e) To continue to receive an exemption under this section  
2 after the person has received an exemption under this section for  
3 two or more academic years or the equivalent, a person must:

4           (1) enroll for a full course load for an undergraduate  
5 student, as determined by the coordinating board, in an  
6 undergraduate degree or certificate program at a general academic  
7 teaching institution; and

8           (2) have a cumulative grade point average of at least  
9 2.5 on a four-point scale or the equivalent on all coursework  
10 previously attempted at institutions of higher education, if the  
11 person is enrolled in any academic year after the person's second  
12 academic year.

13       (f) The legislature shall account in the General  
14 Appropriations Act for the exemptions authorized by Subsection (c)  
15 in a way that provides a corresponding increase in the general  
16 revenue funds appropriated to the institution.

17       (g) In addition to the exemptions authorized by Subsection  
18 (c), the legislature may appropriate money to the coordinating  
19 board to be used to reimburse general academic teaching  
20 institutions for reducing as provided by Subsection (h) the amount  
21 of designated tuition charged under Section 54.0513 to persons  
22 receiving exemptions from tuition and fees under Subsection (c).

23       (h) Based on the amount of appropriations under Subsection  
24 (g) that are available for each academic year, the coordinating  
25 board shall estimate the amount by which the designated tuition  
26 charged under Section 54.0513 to each person who receives an  
27 exemption from tuition and fees under Subsection (c) in that

1 academic year may be reduced from the amount that the applicable  
2 institution would otherwise charge the person. The coordinating  
3 board shall distribute the amount of appropriations under this  
4 subsection available for the academic year to general academic  
5 teaching institutions in proportion to the number of semester  
6 credit hours for which the coordinating board estimates students  
7 will receive exemptions under Subsection (c) in that academic year  
8 at each institution.

9 (i) Each general academic teaching institution that  
10 receives money under Subsection (h) shall reduce the amount of  
11 designated tuition charged to each student who receives an  
12 exemption under Subsection (c) by the amount determined by the  
13 coordinating board for that academic year.

14 SECTION 2. Section 54.202, Education Code, as added by this  
15 Act, applies beginning with tuition, fees, and other charges for  
16 the 2010 fall semester. Tuition, fees, and other charges for a term  
17 or semester before the 2010 fall semester are covered by the law in  
18 effect immediately before the effective date of this Act, and the  
19 former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

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