

By: Van de Putte

S.B. No. 214

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to limitations on increases in the total amount of tuition charged by public institutions of higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 54, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 54.0514 to read as follows:

Sec. 54.0514. LIMITATION ON INCREASE IN TOTAL AMOUNT OF TUITION. (a) In this section, "tuition" includes:

(1) tuition for which the rates are prescribed by this chapter; and

(2) tuition charged by an institution of higher education under Section 54.0513 or another law authorizing an institution to establish tuition rates.

(b) The total amount of tuition charged by an institution of higher education to a student may not exceed the total amount of tuition that the institution would have charged to a similarly situated student in the preceding academic year by more than five percent.

(c) For purposes of this section, students are similarly situated if they share the same residency status, degree program, course load, course level, tuition exemption status, and other circumstances affecting the tuition charged to the student.

(d) This section does not ensure that the total amount of tuition charged to an individual student does not increase by more

1 than five percent based on a change in the student's residency
2 status, degree program, course load, course level, tuition
3 exemption status, or other circumstance affecting the tuition
4 charged to the student.

5 (e) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board may adopt
6 rules as necessary to administer this section.

7 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with tuition charged
8 by public institutions of higher education for the 2010-2011
9 academic year.

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