

1-1 By: Zaffirini S.B. No. 2246  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 13, 2009; March 31, 2009, read  
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Higher Education;  
1-4 April 16, 2009, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 5,  
1-5 Nays 0; April 16, 2009, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to eligibility requirements for the tuition equalization  
1-9 grant program.

1-10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-11 SECTION 1. Subsections (b), (c), and (e), Section 61.2251,  
1-12 Education Code, as added by Chapter 1230 (H.B. 1172), Acts of the  
1-13 79th Legislature, Regular Session, 2005, are amended to read as  
1-14 follows:

1-15 (b) To be eligible for a tuition equalization grant in the  
1-16 first academic year in which the person receives the grant, a person  
1-17 must:

1-18 (1) be a Texas resident as defined by the coordinating  
1-19 board and meet, at a minimum, the resident requirements defined by  
1-20 law for Texas resident tuition in fully state-supported  
1-21 institutions of higher education;

1-22 (2) be enrolled in at least three-fourths of ~~[for]~~ a  
1-23 full course load conforming to an individual degree plan in an  
1-24 approved college or university;

1-25 (3) be required to pay more tuition than is required at  
1-26 a public college or university and be charged no less than the  
1-27 regular tuition required of all students enrolled at the  
1-28 institution;

1-29 (4) establish financial need in accordance with  
1-30 procedures and regulations of the coordinating board;

1-31 (5) not be a recipient of any form of athletic  
1-32 scholarship; ~~[and]~~

1-33 (6) make satisfactory academic progress toward a  
1-34 degree or certificate as determined by the institution at which the  
1-35 person is enrolled; and

1-36 (7) have complied with other requirements adopted by  
1-37 the coordinating board under this subchapter.

1-38 (c) After qualifying for a tuition equalization grant under  
1-39 Subsection (b), a person may receive a tuition equalization grant  
1-40 in a subsequent academic year in which the person is enrolled at an  
1-41 approved institution only if the person:

1-42 (1) meets the requirements of Subsection (b);

1-43 (2) completed at least:

1-44 (A) 24 semester credit hours in the person's most  
1-45 recent full academic year, if the person is enrolled in an  
1-46 undergraduate degree or certificate program; or

1-47 (B) 18 semester credit hours in the person's most  
1-48 recent full academic year, if the person is enrolled in a graduate  
1-49 or professional degree program; and

1-50 (3) has earned an overall grade point average of at  
1-51 least 2.5 on a four-point scale or the equivalent on coursework  
1-52 previously attempted at public or private institutions of higher  
1-53 education.

1-54 (e) The coordinating board shall adopt rules to allow a  
1-55 person who is otherwise eligible to receive a tuition equalization  
1-56 grant, in the event of a hardship or for other good cause shown, to  
1-57 receive a tuition equalization grant if the person does not:

1-58 (1) make satisfactory academic progress as required  
1-59 under Subsection (b)(6);

1-60 (2) complete the semester credit hours required by  
1-61 Subsection (c)(2);

1-62 (3) ~~[(2)]~~ maintain the grade point average required by  
1-63 Subsection (c)(3); or

1-64 (4) ~~[(3)]~~ complete the person's certificate or degree

2-1 program within the period prescribed by Subsection (d).

2-2 SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act to Section  
2-3 61.2251, Education Code, apply beginning with tuition equalization  
2-4 grants awarded for the 2010-2011 academic year. A tuition  
2-5 equalization grant awarded for an academic year before that  
2-6 academic year is covered by the law in effect when the grant was  
2-7 awarded, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

2-8 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
2-9 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
2-10 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
2-11 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
2-12 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

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