

By: Gallego

H.B. No. 216

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the creation of the Texas Legislative Fellows Program
3 for certain students enrolled in component institutions of The
4 University of Texas System.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 65, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 65.48 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 65.48. TEXAS LEGISLATIVE FELLOWS PROGRAM. (a) The
9 board shall develop and establish the Texas Legislative Fellows
10 Program, under which students enrolled in component institutions of
11 the system are selected to perform internships for members of the
12 Texas Legislature during the spring semester of odd-numbered years.

13 (b) Under the program, during the fall semester of each
14 even-numbered year, the chancellor of the system shall select 20
15 students enrolled in component institutions of the system to
16 participate in the program during the following semester. At least
17 one student must be selected from each component general academic
18 teaching institution.

19 (c) The board shall establish:

20 (1) an application process and eligibility
21 requirements for the selection of students for participation in the
22 program; and

23 (2) a process for matching student participants with
24 offices of members of the legislature who agree to employ one or

1 more of the students under the program.

2 (d) The program shall be designed to require that each
3 student who participates in the program:

4 (1) work at least the following number of hours for a
5 member of the legislature during the regular legislative session:

6 (A) 20 hours per week for the first 6 weeks;

7 (B) 30 hours per week for weeks 7 through 10; and

8 (C) 40 hours per week after week 10; and

9 (2) during the internship, complete three academic
10 courses relating to state government and legislative issues
11 approved by the board for purposes of this section.

12 (e) A student who successfully completes the student's
13 internship under the program is entitled to receive:

14 (1) a stipend of \$10,000, payable in monthly
15 installments during the student's internship; and

16 (2) six hours of independent study course credit
17 toward the student's degree at the component institution of the
18 system in which the student is enrolled.

19 (f) The board shall appoint a faculty member of a component
20 institution of the system to serve as the director of the program.
21 The director shall supervise student participants in the program
22 and shall teach the courses required by Subsection (d)(2).

23 (g) The stipend for an intern shall be paid from the
24 operating account of the member of the legislature to whom the
25 intern is assigned. The applicable house of the legislature shall
26 supplement the member's operating account as necessary to provide
27 sufficient funding for the stipend. Each house shall contribute to

1 the salary of the program director from the general fund of the
2 applicable house.

3 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
4 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
5 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
6 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
7 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.