

By: White

H.B. No. 459

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to temporary limitations on the total amount of tuition charged to a student by a four-year public institution 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. TEMPORARY LIMITATION ON TOTAL AMOUNT OF TUITION. (a) In this section:

(1) "General academic teaching institution" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

(2) "Tuition" includes:

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

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

(b) Notwithstanding Section 54.0513 or another law authorizing an institution of higher education to establish tuition rates, the total amount of tuition charged by a general academic teaching institution to a student for the 2011-2012 or 2012-2013 academic year may not exceed the total amount of tuition that the institution would have charged under this chapter to a similarly situated student for the 2010-2011 academic year.

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

5 (d) This section does not ensure that the total amount of
6 tuition charged to an individual student does not increase based on
7 a change in the student's residency status, degree program, course
8 load, course level, tuition exemption status, or other circumstance
9 affecting the tuition charged to the student.

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

12 (f) This section expires August 31, 2013.

13 SECTION 2. 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, 2011.