

By: Hochberg

H.B. No. 3624

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the eligibility of educational aides for tuition exemptions at public institutions of higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Section 54.214, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsections (c), (f), and (g) and adding Subsection (c-1) to read as follows:

(c) To be eligible for an exemption under this section, a person must:

(1) be a resident of this state;

(2) be a school employee serving in any capacity;

(3) for the initial term or semester for which the person receives an exemption under this section, have worked as an educational aide for at least one school year during the five years preceding that term or semester;

(4) establish financial need as determined by coordinating board rule;

(5) be enrolled at the institution of higher education granting the exemption in courses required for teacher certification in one or more subject areas determined by the Texas Education Agency to be experiencing a critical shortage of teachers at the public schools in this state [~~at the institution of higher education granting the exemption~~];

(6) maintain an acceptable grade point average as

1 determined by coordinating board rule; and

2 (7) comply with any other requirements adopted by the
3 coordinating board under this section.

4 (c-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (c)(5), a person who
5 previously received a tuition exemption under Section 54.214
6 remains eligible for an exemption if the person:

7 (1) is enrolled at an institution of higher education
8 granting the exemption in courses required for teacher
9 certification; and

10 (2) meets the eligibility requirements in Subsection
11 (c) other than Subsection (c)(5).

12 (f) The board of trustees of a school district shall
13 establish a plan to encourage the hiring of educational aides who
14 show a willingness to become certified teachers in one or more
15 subject areas determined by the Texas Education Agency to be
16 experiencing a critical shortage of teachers at the public schools
17 in this state.

18 (g) The governing board of an institution of higher
19 education that offers courses required for teacher certification in
20 one or more subject areas determined by the Texas Education Agency
21 to be experiencing a critical shortage of teachers at the public
22 schools in this state shall establish a plan to make those courses
23 more accessible to those who seek teacher certification. The board
24 shall consider as part of its plan to make those courses more
25 accessible for teacher certification, evening classes, Internet
26 classes, or other means approved by the Texas Higher Education
27 Coordinating Board.

1 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies
2 beginning with tuition and fees charged for the 2011 fall semester.
3 Tuition and fees charged for a term or semester before the 2011 fall
4 semester are covered by the law in effect immediately before the
5 effective date of this Act, and the former law is continued in
6 effect for that purpose.

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