

By: Hochberg

H.B. No. 3624

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

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

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

5 SECTION 1. Sections 54.214(c), (f), and (g), Education  
6 Code, are amended to read as follows:

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

9 (1) be a resident of this state;

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

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

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

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

23 (6) maintain an acceptable grade point average as  
24 determined by coordinating board rule; and

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

3           (f) The board of trustees of a school district shall  
4 establish a plan to encourage the hiring of educational aides who  
5 show a willingness to become certified teachers in one or more  
6 subject areas determined by the Texas Education Agency to be  
7 experiencing a critical shortage of teachers at the public schools  
8 in this state.

9           (g) The governing board of an institution of higher  
10 education that offers courses required for teacher certification in  
11 one or more subject areas determined by the Texas Education Agency  
12 to be experiencing a critical shortage of teachers at the public  
13 schools in this state shall establish a plan to make those courses  
14 more accessible to those who seek teacher certification. The board  
15 shall consider as part of its plan to make those courses more  
16 accessible for teacher certification, evening classes, Internet  
17 classes, or other means approved by the Texas Higher Education  
18 Coordinating Board.

19           SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies  
20 beginning with tuition and fees charged for the 2011 fall semester.  
21 Tuition and fees charged for a term or semester before the 2011 fall  
22 semester are covered by the law in effect immediately before the  
23 effective date of this Act, and the former law is continued in  
24 effect for that purpose.

25           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
26 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
27 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

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1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

2 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.