

By: Branch, Alvarado, et al.

H.B. No. 29

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 29:

By: Branch

C.S.H.B. No. 29

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to requiring certain general academic teaching
3 institutions to offer a four-year fixed tuition price plan to
4 undergraduate students.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 54, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 54.017 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 54.017. FOUR-YEAR FIXED TUITION PRICE PLAN FOR
9 UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS AT CERTAIN GENERAL ACADEMIC TEACHING
10 INSTITUTIONS. (a) In this section:

11 (1) "Coordinating board" means the Texas Higher
12 Education Coordinating Board.

13 (2) "General academic teaching institution" and
14 "public state college" have the meanings assigned by Section
15 61.003.

16 (3) "Plan" means a four-year fixed tuition price plan
17 offered under this section.

18 (b) This section applies only to a general academic teaching
19 institution other than a public state college.

20 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter and
21 except as otherwise provided by this section, the governing board
22 of an institution to which this section applies shall offer each
23 entering undergraduate student, including each undergraduate
24 student who transfers to the institution regardless of the number

1 of semester credit hours transferred by the student, the
2 opportunity to participate in a four-year fixed tuition price plan.

3 (d) Unless the institution does not offer other tuition
4 payment options, an institution to which this section applies shall
5 require an entering undergraduate student to accept or reject
6 participation in the plan before the date of the student's initial
7 enrollment at the institution.

8 (e) A plan offered under this section must provide that:

9 (1) during the four academic years immediately
10 following the date of a student's initial enrollment at the
11 institution, the institution may not charge tuition to the student
12 for a semester or other academic term at a rate that exceeds the
13 rate the institution would have charged the student for the same
14 courses during:

15 (A) the first academic year in which the student
16 enrolled at the institution, if the student initially enrolled for
17 a fall or spring semester; or

18 (B) the academic year immediately following the
19 summer term in which the student enrolled at the institution, if the
20 student initially enrolled for a summer term; and

21 (2) beginning with the fifth academic year following
22 the date the student first enrolls at the institution, the
23 institution may not charge tuition to the student for a semester or
24 other academic term at a rate that exceeds the rate the institution
25 would have charged the student under Subdivision (1) had the
26 student initially enrolled in the institution one year after the
27 student's actual initial enrollment.

1 (f) A fixed tuition price charged to a student by an
2 institution under Subsection (e) does not apply to the student
3 after the student has been awarded a baccalaureate degree by the
4 institution.

5 (g) Each institution to which this section applies shall
6 notify each entering undergraduate student, including each
7 undergraduate student who transfers to the institution, of the plan
8 offered under this section.

9 (h) Fees charged by an institution to a student
10 participating in a plan under this section may not exceed the fees
11 charged by the institution to a similarly situated student who
12 elects not to participate in the plan, if the institution offers
13 other tuition payment options. For purposes of this subsection,
14 students are similarly situated if they share the same residency
15 status, degree program, course load, course level, and other
16 circumstances affecting the fees charged to the students.

17 (i) Each institution to which this section applies shall
18 adopt any rules the institution considers appropriate for the
19 administration of the institution's plan under this section.

20 (j) This section does not require an institution to which
21 this section applies to offer a variable tuition price plan to
22 undergraduate students enrolled in the institution.

23 (k) This section does not apply to the tuition charged by an
24 institution to which this section applies to a student who enters
25 the institution for the first time before the 2014 fall semester.
26 This subsection expires January 1, 2020.

27 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

1 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
3 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
4 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.