

By: Patrick

H.B. No. 2555

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 2555:

By: Branch

C.S.H.B. No. 2555

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to a study and report regarding tuition and fee exemptions
3 for certain military personnel and their dependents.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 54, Education Code, is
6 amended by adding Section 54.3411 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 54.3411. STUDY REGARDING TUITION AND FEE EXEMPTIONS
8 FOR CERTAIN MILITARY PERSONNEL AND DEPENDENTS. (a) The Legislative
9 Budget Board, in consultation with the Texas Higher Education
10 Coordinating Board and the Texas Veterans Commission, as the
11 Legislative Budget Board considers necessary, shall study and
12 evaluate the tuition and fee exemptions provided under Section
13 54.341. In the study, the Legislative Budget Board shall consider
14 any available historical data and the projected data regarding
15 recipients of the exemptions provided under Section 54.341,
16 disaggregated by veteran, dependent, spouse, and legacy recipient,
17 for each of the following categories of information:

18 (1) the total number of recipients, disaggregated by
19 gender, race and ethnicity, institution, and socioeconomic
20 background as indicated in the Free Application for Federal Student
21 Aid (FAFSA);

22 (2) the number of undergraduate, graduate, and
23 doctoral credit hours attempted and earned by semester;

24 (3) the number of degrees attempted and earned, and

1 the associated semester credit hours required for those degrees,
2 per recipient;

3 (4) the grade point average of recipients after
4 completing the first, second, third, and fourth academic years, and
5 subsequent academic years, as applicable, and to the extent allowed
6 under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (20
7 U.S.C. Section 1232q);

8 (5) the average time to graduation;

9 (6) the four-year and six-year graduation rates,
10 retention rates, and noncompletion rates;

11 (7) the number of semester credit hours of
12 developmental education courses attempted and earned by
13 recipients;

14 (8) the proportion of federal education benefits,
15 including veteran and non-veteran benefits, and of the exemption
16 provided under Section 54.341, used for undergraduate, graduate,
17 and doctoral semester credit hours attempted and earned by
18 recipients; and

19 (9) the average cost of tuition and mandatory fees for
20 an undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral recipient enrolled in a
21 full course load at an institution of higher education compared to
22 the average cost for a nonrecipient student enrolled in a full
23 course load at the same institution for the same degree level.

24 (b) To the greatest extent possible:

25 (1) the Legislative Budget Board shall:

26 (A) include in its study a review of all federal
27 education benefits for veterans in order to comprehensively review

1 the sustainability of state and federal benefits for veterans; and
2 (B) use applicable data from the 2008-2009
3 academic year or a more recent academic year as a baseline in the
4 study; and

5 (2) institutions of higher education shall cooperate
6 with the Legislative Budget Board by providing any requested data
7 and ensuring the reliability and validity of the data collected and
8 submitted for the purpose of the study.

9 (c) Not later than December 1, 2014, the Legislative Budget
10 Board shall submit to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating
11 Board, the Texas Veterans Commission, the governor, the lieutenant
12 governor, and the speaker of the house of representatives a written
13 report of the results of the study conducted under this section,
14 together with any recommendations for legislative or
15 administrative action, including any changes to eligibility
16 criteria or other changes necessary to promote sustainability,
17 fiscal efficiency, and effectiveness in the use of the exemption
18 provided under Section 54.341. A recommendation included in the
19 report must include an explanation of the basis for that
20 recommendation.

21 (d) This section expires January 31, 2015.

22 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
23 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
24 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
25 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
26 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.