

By: Patrick

H.B. No. 2555

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to tuition and fee exemptions for certain military personnel and their dependents.

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

SECTION 1. Section 54.341, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsections (c), (d), and (l) and adding Subsection (o) to read as follows:

(c) A person may not receive exemptions provided for by this section for more than a cumulative total of 135 ~~150~~ credit hours.

(d) The governing board of each institution of higher education granting an exemption under this section shall require each applicant claiming the exemption to submit to the institution an application for the exemption and satisfactory evidence that the applicant qualifies for the exemption not later than the 12th class day of the semester or term to which the exemption applies ~~[one year after the earlier of the date the institution:~~

~~(1) provides written notice to the applicant of the applicant's eligibility for the exemption; or~~

~~(2) receives a written acknowledgement from the applicant evidencing the applicant's awareness of the applicant's eligibility for the exemption].~~

(l) To be eligible to receive an exemption under Subsection (k), the child must:

(1) be a student who is classified as a resident under

1 Subchapter B when the child enrolls in an institution of higher
2 education; and

3 (2) meet the ~~[make]~~ satisfactory academic progress
4 requirements of this section ~~[in a degree, certificate, or~~
5 ~~continuing education program as determined by the institution at~~
6 ~~which the child is enrolled in accordance with the policy of the~~
7 ~~institution's financial aid department, except that the~~
8 ~~institution may not require the child to enroll in a minimum course~~
9 ~~load].~~

10 (o) To receive an exemption provided by this section, a
11 person otherwise eligible for the exemption must make satisfactory
12 academic progress toward a degree or certificate at the institution
13 by maintaining an overall grade point average of at least 2.5 on a
14 4-point scale or the equivalent on all course work attempted by the
15 person at the institution.

16 SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply
17 beginning with tuition and fees for the 2013 fall semester. Tuition
18 and fees for a term or semester before the 2013 fall semester are
19 covered by the law in effect immediately before the effective date
20 of this Act, and the former law is continued in effect for that
21 purpose.

22 SECTION 3. 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 on the 91st day after the last day of the
27 legislative session.