

Suspending limitations on conference committee
jurisdiction, S.B. No. 1158 (Van de Putte/Menendez)

By: Van de Putte

S.R. No. 1079

R E S O L U T I O N

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the State of Texas, 83rd
2 Legislature, Regular Session, 2013, That Senate Rule 12.03 be
3 suspended in part as provided by Senate Rule 12.08 to enable the
4 conference committee appointed to resolve the differences on Senate
5 Bill 1158 (relating to higher education for veterans and their
6 families) to consider and take action on the following matters:

7 (1) Senate Rule 12.03(4) is suspended to permit the
8 committee to add text on matters which are not included in either
9 the house or senate version of the bill in SECTION 1 of the bill by
10 amending Sections 54.341(d), (h), and (l), Education Code, to read
11 as follows:

12 (d) The governing board of each institution of higher
13 education granting an exemption under this section shall require
14 each applicant claiming the exemption to submit to the institution,
15 in the form and manner prescribed by the Texas Veterans Commission
16 for purposes of this section under Section 434.0079(b), Government
17 Code, an application for the exemption and necessary ~~[satisfactory]~~
18 evidence that the applicant qualifies for the exemption not later
19 than the last class date of the semester or term to which the
20 exemption applies, except that the governing board may encourage
21 the submission of an application and evidence by the official day of
22 record for the semester or term to which the exemption applies on
23 which the institution must determine the enrollment that is
24 reported to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board ~~[one year~~

1 ~~after the earlier of the date the institution:~~

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

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

7 (h) The governing board of each institution of higher
8 education shall electronically report to the Texas Veterans
9 Commission ~~[Higher Education Coordinating Board]~~ the information
10 required by Section 434.00791, Government Code, ~~[61.0516]~~ relating
11 to each individual receiving an exemption from fees and charges
12 under Subsection (a), (a-2), ~~[or]~~ (b), or (k). The institution
13 shall report the information not later than January 31 ~~[December~~
14 ~~31]~~ of each year for the fall semester, June 30 ~~[May 31]~~ of each year
15 for the spring semester, and September 30 of each year for the
16 summer session.

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

19 (1) be a student who is classified as a resident under
20 Subchapter B when the child enrolls in an institution of higher
21 education; ~~[and]~~

22 (2) as a graduate or undergraduate student, maintain a
23 grade point average that satisfies the grade point average
24 requirement for making ~~[make]~~ satisfactory academic progress in a
25 degree, certificate, or continuing education program as determined
26 by the institution at which the child is enrolled in accordance with
27 the institution's policy regarding eligibility for ~~[of the~~

1 ~~institution's]~~ financial aid; and

2 (3) be 25 years of age or younger on the first day of
3 the semester or other academic term for which the exemption is
4 claimed ~~[department, except that the institution may not require~~
5 ~~the child to enroll in a minimum course load]~~.

6 Explanation: These changes are necessary to clarify the
7 reporting and eligibility requirements for certain tuition
8 exemptions awarded to veterans and their families.

9 (2) Senate Rule 12.03(4) is suspended to permit the
10 committee to add text on a matter which is not included in either
11 the house or senate version of the bill in SECTION 2 of the bill by
12 adding Section 54.3411(e), Education Code, to read as follows:

13 (e) The amount available for distribution from the fund may
14 be appropriated only to offset the cost to institutions of higher
15 education of the exemptions required by Section 54.341(k). The
16 amount appropriated shall be distributed to eligible institutions
17 in proportion to each institution's respective share of the
18 aggregate cost to all institutions of the exemptions required by
19 Section 54.341(k), as determined by the Legislative Budget Board.
20 The amount appropriated shall be distributed annually to each
21 eligible institution of higher education.

22 Explanation: This change is necessary to clarify the
23 distribution of funds for certain tuition exemptions awarded to
24 children of veterans.

25 (3) Senate Rule 12.03(4) is suspended to permit the
26 committee to add text on a matter which is not included in either
27 the house or senate version of the bill in SECTION 3 of the bill by

adding Section 434.0079(c), Government Code, to read as follows:

(c) The commission shall adopt rules governing the coordination of federal and state benefits of a person eligible to receive an exemption under Section 54.341(k), Education Code, including rules governing:

(1) the total number of credit hours assigned under that section that a person may apply to an individual degree or certificate program, consistent with the standards of the appropriate recognized regional accrediting agency; and

(2) the application of the assigned exemption to credit hours for which the institution of higher education does not receive state funding.

Explanation: This change is necessary to require rules to be adopted for the administration of certain tuition exemptions awarded to veterans and their families.