

By: Flynn

H.B. No. 119

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 119:

By: Clardy

C.S.H.B. No. 119

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to tuition assistance for members of the Texas State  
3 Guard.

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

5 SECTION 1. Chapter 56, Education Code, is amended by adding  
6 Subchapter S to read as follows:

7 SUBCHAPTER S. ASSISTANCE FOR TUITION AND FEES FOR MEMBERS  
8 OF TEXAS STATE GUARD

9 Sec. 56.501. PURPOSE. Because the Texas State Guard is the  
10 state's only organized, trained, and equipped military force under  
11 the direction of the governor available to respond to natural and  
12 man-made disasters, assistance for tuition and mandatory fees is  
13 provided under this subchapter to eligible members of the Texas  
14 State Guard to encourage voluntary membership, to improve the  
15 education level of its members, to diversify the composition of the  
16 forces, and to enhance the state's workforce.

17 Sec. 56.502. EXEMPTION. An institution of higher education  
18 shall exempt an eligible person from the payment of tuition and  
19 mandatory fees for the semester credit hours for which the person  
20 enrolls, not to exceed a total of 120 semester credit hours. If the  
21 person is not charged tuition at the rate provided for other Texas  
22 residents, the amount of the exemption may not exceed the amount of  
23 tuition the person would be charged as a Texas resident for the  
24 number of semester credit hours for which the person enrolls, not to

1 exceed 120 semester credit hours.

2 Sec. 56.503. ELIGIBILITY. (a) To be eligible to receive  
3 an exemption under this subchapter, a person must:

4 (1) be a member in good standing for at least one  
5 calendar year, as certified by the adjutant general, of the Texas  
6 State Guard;

7 (2) commit to serve the Texas State Guard as follows:

8 (A) for an undergraduate program, eight years,  
9 four years of which must be served while enrolled in an institution  
10 of higher education and four years of which must be served following  
11 the period of enrollment; and

12 (B) for a graduate program, five years, two years  
13 of which must be served while enrolled in an institution of higher  
14 education and three years of which must be served following the  
15 period of enrollment; and

16 (3) be selected by the commander of the Texas State  
17 Guard under Subsection (b).

18 (b) The commander of the Texas State Guard, as the commander  
19 considers appropriate to advance the purposes of this subchapter,  
20 may select no more than 50 members of the Texas State Guard from the  
21 entirety of the state to receive an exemption under this subchapter  
22 for each semester or other academic term.

23 Sec. 56.504. REPAYMENT. The Texas Higher Education  
24 Coordinating Board by rule shall require a person who does not  
25 fulfill the commitment to serve in the Texas State Guard under  
26 Section 56.503(2) to repay the amount of all tuition and mandatory  
27 fees for which the person received an exemption under this

1 subchapter to the institution of higher education from which the  
2 person received the exemption.

3 Sec. 56.505. RULES. The Texas Higher Education  
4 Coordinating Board shall adopt rules as necessary for the  
5 administration of this subchapter.

6 SECTION 2. (a) The changes in law made by this Act apply  
7 beginning with the 2015 fall semester.

8 (b) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall  
9 adopt rules for the administration of Subchapter S, Chapter 56,  
10 Education Code, as added by this Act, as soon as practicable after  
11 this Act takes effect. For that purpose, the coordinating board may  
12 adopt the rules in the manner provided by law for emergency rules.

13 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
14 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
15 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
16 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
17 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.