

By: Zerwas

H.B. No. 2483

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a maximum tuition rate under a fixed tuition price plan.

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

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

Sec. 54.017. FIXED TUITION PRICE PLAN FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS AT CERTAIN GENERAL ACADEMIC TEACHING INSTITUTIONS. (a) In this section, "general academic teaching institution" and "public state college" have the meanings assigned by Section 61.003.

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

(c) The governing board of an institution to which this section applies shall offer entering undergraduate students, including undergraduate students who transfer to the institution, the opportunity to participate in a fixed tuition price plan under which the institution agrees not to increase tuition charges per semester credit hour for a participating student for at least the first 12 consecutive semesters that occur after the date of the student's initial enrollment at any public or private institution of higher education, regardless of whether the student enrolls at any institution in those semesters, and subject to any restrictions or qualifications adopted by the governing board. For purposes of this section, one or more summer terms occurring in the same summer

1 is considered a semester.

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

8 (e) This section does not require an institution to which  
9 this section applies to offer a variable tuition price plan or other  
10 tuition payment options to undergraduate students enrolled in the  
11 institution.

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

20 (g) This section does not apply to the tuition charged by an  
21 institution to which this section applies to a student who enters  
22 the institution for the first time before the 2014 fall semester.

23 (h) The fixed tuition price plan under subsection (c) of an  
24 institution not offering other tuition payment options may include  
25 a maximum tuition rate. Notwithstanding subsection (c), the  
26 institution's tuition charges may vary between semesters during  
27 the period covered by the fixed tuition price plan, but the

1 institution's tuition charges may not exceed the established  
2 maximum tuition rate.

3 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.