

By: Rodriguez of Travis

H.B. No. 3273

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the exemption of tuition and fees at public
3 institutions of higher education for certain certified or licensed
4 paramedics.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 54, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 54.3532 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 54.3532. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROVIDER ENROLLED
9 IN MEDICAL COURSES. (a) The governing board of an institution of
10 higher education shall exempt from the payment of tuition and
11 laboratory fees any student enrolled in one or more courses offered
12 as part of a medical curriculum who:

13 (1) is employed by a political subdivision of this
14 state as an emergency medical technician certified by the
15 Department of State Health Services as provided by Chapter 773,
16 Health and Safety Code; or

17 (2) is currently, and has been for at least one year,
18 an active member of a municipal emergency medical services provider
19 and who holds an associate's degree as a licensed paramedic.

20 (b) An exemption provided under this section does not apply
21 to deposits that may be required in the nature of security for the
22 return or proper care of property loaned for the use of students.

23 (c) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), a student who for a
24 semester or term at an institution of higher education receives an

1 exemption under this section may continue to receive the exemption
2 for a subsequent semester or term at any institution only if the
3 student makes satisfactory academic progress toward a degree or
4 certificate at that institution as determined by the institution
5 for purposes of financial aid.

6 (d) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), the exemption provided
7 under this section does not apply to any amount of additional
8 tuition the institution elects to charge a resident undergraduate
9 student under Section 54.014(a) or (f).

10 (e) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), the exemption provided
11 under this section does not apply to any amount of tuition the
12 institution charges a graduate student in excess of the amount of
13 tuition charged to similarly situated graduate students because the
14 student has a number of semester credit hours of doctoral work in
15 excess of the applicable number provided by Section 61.059(1)(1) or
16 (2).

17 (f) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
18 adopt:

19 (1) rules governing the granting or denial of an
20 exemption under this section, including rules relating to the
21 determination of a student's eligibility for an exemption; and

22 (2) a uniform listing of degree programs covered by
23 the exemption under this section.

24 SECTION 2. Section 54.3532, Education Code, as added by
25 this Act, applies beginning with tuition and laboratory fees
26 charged for the 2015 fall semester. Tuition and laboratory fees
27 charged for an academic period before that semester are covered by

1 the law in effect immediately before the effective date of this Act,
2 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

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