

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 41

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to exemptions for disabled peace officers from payment of
3 tuition and fees at public institutions of higher education.

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

5 SECTION 1. The heading to Section 54.352, Education Code,
6 is amended to read as follows:

7 Sec. 54.352. DISABLED PEACE OFFICERS [~~OPTIONAL~~
8 ~~EXEMPTION~~].

9 SECTION 2. Section 54.352(a), Education Code, is amended to
10 read as follows:

11 (a) The governing board of an institution of higher
12 education shall [~~may~~] exempt a student from the payment of tuition
13 and [~~required~~] fees [~~authorized by this chapter~~] for a course for
14 which space is available if the student:

15 (1) is a resident of this state and has resided in this
16 state for the 12 months immediately preceding the beginning of the
17 semester or session for which an exemption is sought;

18 (2) is permanently disabled as a result of an injury
19 suffered during the performance of a duty as a peace officer of this
20 state or a political subdivision of this state; and

21 (3) is unable to continue employment as a peace
22 officer because of the disability.

23 SECTION 3. The changes in law made by this Act apply to an
24 exemption from tuition and fees beginning with the 2015 fall

1 semester.

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