

1-1 By: Birdwell S.B. No. 691
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 23, 2015; February 25, 2015,
 1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Higher Education;
 1-4 April 9, 2015, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 6,
 1-5 Nays 0; April 9, 2015, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12			X	
1-13	X			
1-14	X			

1-15 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-16 AN ACT

1-17 relating to tuition and fee exemptions for certain students
 1-18 enrolled in fire science courses at public institutions of higher
 1-19 education.

1-20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-21 SECTION 1. Section 54.353(a), Education Code, is amended to
 1-22 read as follows:

1-23 (a) The governing board of an institution of higher
 1-24 education shall exempt from the payment of tuition and laboratory
 1-25 fees any student enrolled in one or more courses offered as part of
 1-26 a fire science curriculum who:

1-27 (1) is employed as a firefighter by a political
 1-28 subdivision of this state; or

1-29 (2) is currently, and has been for at least one year,
 1-30 an active member of an organized volunteer fire department
 1-31 [~~participating in the Texas Emergency Services Retirement System or~~
 1-32 ~~a retirement system established under the Texas Local Fire Fighters~~
 1-33 ~~Retirement Act (Article 6243e, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes) and]~~
 1-34 who [~~holds~~]:

1-35 (A) holds an Accredited Advanced level of
 1-36 certification, or an equivalent successor certification, under the
 1-37 State Firefighters' [~~Firemen's~~] and Fire Marshals' Association of
 1-38 Texas volunteer certification program; [~~or~~]

1-39 (B) holds a Phase V (Firefighter II)
 1-40 certification, or an equivalent successor certification, under the
 1-41 Texas Commission on Fire Protection's voluntary certification
 1-42 program under Section 419.071, Government Code; or

1-43 (C) participates in the Texas Emergency Services
 1-44 Retirement System or a retirement system established under the
 1-45 Texas Local Fire Fighters Retirement Act (Article 6243e, Vernon's
 1-46 Texas Civil Statutes).

1-47 SECTION 2. Section 54.353(a), Education Code, as amended by
 1-48 this Act, applies beginning with tuition and laboratory fees
 1-49 charged for the 2015 fall semester. Tuition and laboratory fees
 1-50 charged for an academic period before that semester are covered by
 1-51 the law in effect immediately before the effective date of this Act,
 1-52 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

1-53 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
 1-54 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
 1-55 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
 1-56 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
 1-57 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

1-58 * * * * *