

By: Schaefer

H.B. No. 2557

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 2557:

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C.S.H.B. No. 2557

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to collection and reporting of certain information
3 regarding tuition and fee exemptions granted by institutions of
4 higher education to veterans and their family members.

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

6 SECTION 1. Sections 54.341(h) and (o), Education Code, are
7 amended to read as follows:

8 (h) The governing board of each institution of higher
9 education shall electronically report to the Texas Veterans
10 Commission the information required by Section 434.00791,
11 Government Code, and to the Legislative Budget Board the
12 information required by Section 322.025, Government Code, relating
13 to each individual receiving an exemption from fees and charges
14 under Subsection (a), (a-2), (b), or (k). The institution shall
15 report the information not later than January 31 of each year for
16 the fall semester, June 30 of each year for the spring semester, and
17 September 30 of each year for the summer session.

18 (o) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the
19 Legislative Budget Board, and the Texas Veterans Commission shall
20 coordinate to provide each respective agency with any information
21 required to ensure the proper administration of this section and
22 the proper execution of each agency's statutory responsibilities
23 concerning this section.

24 SECTION 2. Chapter 322, Government Code, is amended by

1 adding Section 322.025 to read as follows:

2 Sec. 322.025. DATA COLLECTION AND REPORT REGARDING TUITION
3 AND FEE EXEMPTIONS FOR VETERANS AND FAMILY MEMBERS. (a) In this
4 section, "institution of higher education" has the meaning assigned
5 by Section 61.003, Education Code.

6 (b) Using existing resources, the board shall collect from
7 each institution of higher education, for each semester, the
8 following information regarding tuition and fee exemptions granted
9 by the institution under Section 54.341, Education Code:

10 (1) the age of each individual attending the
11 institution and receiving benefits for the semester;

12 (2) for each individual receiving benefits, the number
13 of credit hours for which the individual received an exemption for
14 the semester;

15 (3) for each individual receiving benefits at the
16 institution during the semester, the total cumulative number of
17 credit hours for which the individual has received an exemption at
18 the institution;

19 (4) for each individual receiving benefits, whether
20 the person is a veteran or the family member of a veteran;

21 (5) in a manner that does not identify the person
22 receiving benefits and as indicated by official documentation from
23 the United States Department of Defense, for a veteran who is
24 eligible for benefits or whose service allows another person to be
25 eligible for benefits:

26 (A) whether the veteran served as an active duty
27 member or a member of a reserve component of the armed forces; and

1 (B) the veteran's length of service; and

2 (6) any other information required by the board.

3 (c) Not later than November 1 of each year, the board shall
4 submit to the legislature a report regarding the data collected by
5 the board under Subsection (b) for the most recent academic year.

6 SECTION 3. The changes in law made by this Act apply
7 beginning with tuition and fee exemptions granted under Section
8 [54.341](#), Education Code, for the 2019 fall semester.

9 SECTION 4. Not later than November 1, 2020, the Legislative
10 Budget Board shall submit its initial report required under Section
11 [322.025](#), Government Code, as added by this Act.

12 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
13 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
14 provided by Section [39](#), Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
15 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
16 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.