

By: Bettencourt

S.B. No. 1478

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the fixed tuition price plan offered by certain general academic teaching institutions.

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

SECTION 1. Section 54.017, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsections (c-1) and (c-2) to read as follows:

(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, subject to any restrictions or qualifications adopted by the governing board, agrees:

(1) not to increase tuition charges per semester credit hour for a participating student for at least the first 18 [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

(2) to provide to any student participating in the fixed tuition price plan:

(A) a rebate of tuition charges, in an amount prescribed by the institution, if the student is awarded a baccalaureate degree by the institution within four calendar years

1 after the date of the student's initial enrollment at any public or  
2 private institution of higher education; and

3 (B) a rebate of tuition charges, in an amount  
4 prescribed by the institution that is less than the rebate amount  
5 prescribed under Paragraph (A), if the student does not qualify for  
6 a rebate under Paragraph (A) and is awarded a baccalaureate degree  
7 by the institution within five calendar years after the date of the  
8 student's initial enrollment at any public or private institution  
9 of higher education.

10 (c-1) An institution to which this section applies shall  
11 provide to each entering undergraduate student, at the time the  
12 student is offered the opportunity to participate in the  
13 institution's fixed tuition price plan, detailed information  
14 regarding the tuition rebates offered by the institution under  
15 Subsection (c)(2), including the amounts of those rebates [~~, and~~  
16 ~~subject to any restrictions or qualifications adopted by the~~  
17 ~~governing board].~~

18 (c-2) For purposes of this section, one or more summer terms  
19 occurring in the same summer is considered a semester.

20 SECTION 2. Section 54.017, Education Code, as amended by  
21 this Act, applies beginning with fixed tuition price plans offered  
22 to entering students at general academic teaching institutions for  
23 the 2020 fall semester. Fixed tuition price plans offered to  
24 entering students at general academic teaching institutions for a  
25 semester or term before the 2020 fall semester are governed by the  
26 law in effect immediately before the effective date of this Act, and  
27 that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

1 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect January 1, 2020.