

By: Turner of Tarrant

H.B. No. 2815

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to eligibility for the Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program.

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

SECTION 1. Section 61.9773(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) To receive a scholarship under this subchapter, a student must enter into an agreement with the board as provided by this section. The agreement must require the student to:

(1) complete:

(A) one year of ROTC training for each year that the student receives the scholarship, up to a maximum requirement of four years of ROTC training; or

(B) [complete] another undergraduate officer commissioning program such as the United States Marine Corps Platoon Leaders Class;

(2) graduate not later than six years after the date the student first enrolls in a public or private institution of higher education in this state;

(3) after graduation, enter into:

(A) a four-year commitment to be a member of the Texas Army National Guard, Texas Air National Guard, Texas State Guard, United States Coast Guard, or United States Merchant Marine;

or

1 (B) a contract to serve as a commissioned officer
2 in any branch of the armed services of the United States;

3 (4) meet the physical examination requirements and all
4 other prescreening requirements of the Texas Army National Guard,
5 Texas Air National Guard, Texas State Guard, United States Coast
6 Guard, or United States Merchant Marine or the branch of the armed
7 services with which the student enters into a contract; and

8 (5) agree to repay the scholarship if the student:

9 (A) fails to maintain satisfactory academic
10 progress;

11 (B) withdraws from the scholarship program; or

12 (C) fails to fulfill a commitment or contract
13 described by Subdivision (3).

14 SECTION 2. Section [61.9773\(a\)](#), Education Code, as amended
15 by this Act, applies beginning with a Texas Armed Services
16 Scholarship awarded for the 2021-2022 academic year. A Texas Armed
17 Services Scholarship awarded for an academic year before that
18 academic year is governed by the law in effect when the scholarship
19 was awarded, and the former law is continued in effect for that
20 purpose.

21 SECTION 3. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
22 shall adopt rules for the administration of Section [61.9773\(a\)](#),
23 Education Code, as amended by this Act, as soon as practicable after
24 this Act takes effect.

25 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
26 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
27 provided by Section [39](#), Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

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1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

2 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.