

By: Goodwin

H.B. No. 742

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to tuition and fee exemptions at public institutions of
3 higher education for certain county jailers and law enforcement
4 telecommunicators.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 54.3531(a), Education Code, is amended
7 to read as follows:

8 (a) The governing board of an institution of higher
9 education shall exempt from the payment of tuition and laboratory
10 fees charged by the institution for a criminal justice or law
11 enforcement course or courses an undergraduate student who:

12 (1) is employed [~~as a peace officer~~] by this state or
13 by a political subdivision of this state as:

14 (A) a peace officer;

15 (B) a county jail guard under Section 85.005,
16 Local Government Code; or

17 (C) a telecommunicator required to hold a
18 telecommunicator license issued under Chapter 1701, Occupations
19 Code;

20 (2) is enrolled in a criminal justice or law
21 enforcement-related degree program at the institution;

22 (3) is making satisfactory academic progress toward
23 the student's degree as determined by the institution; and

24 (4) applies for the exemption at least one week before

1 the last date of the institution's regular registration period for
2 the applicable semester or other term.

3 SECTION 2. Section [54.3531](#), Education Code, as amended by
4 this Act, applies beginning with tuition and other fees charged for
5 the 2023 fall semester. Tuition and other fees charged for an
6 academic period before that semester are governed by the law in
7 effect immediately before the effective date of this Act, and the
8 former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

9 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
10 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
11 provided by Section [39](#), Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
12 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
13 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.