

By: Frazier

H.B. No. 2596

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to eligibility of certain current or former members of the
3 Texas National Guard or the Texas Air National Guard for tuition and
4 fee exemptions at public institutions of higher education.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 54.341(a), Education Code, is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (a) The governing board of each institution of higher
9 education shall exempt the following persons from the payment of
10 tuition, dues, fees, and other required charges, including fees for
11 correspondence courses but excluding general deposit fees, student
12 services fees, and any fees or charges for lodging, board, or
13 clothing, provided the person seeking the exemption currently
14 resides in this state and entered the service at a location in this
15 state, declared this state as the person's home of record in the
16 manner provided by the applicable military or other service, or
17 would have been determined to be a resident of this state for
18 purposes of Subchapter B at the time the person entered the service:

19 (1) all nurses and honorably discharged members of the
20 armed forces of the United States who served during the
21 Spanish-American War or during World War I;

22 (2) all nurses, members of the Women's Army Auxiliary
23 Corps, members of the Women's Auxiliary Volunteer Emergency
24 Service, and all honorably discharged members of the armed forces

1 of the United States who served during World War II except those who
2 were discharged from service because they were over the age of 38 or
3 because of a personal request on the part of the person that the
4 person be discharged from service;

5 (3) all honorably discharged men and women of the
6 armed forces of the United States who served during the national
7 emergency which began on June 27, 1950, and which is referred to as
8 the Korean War; ~~and~~

9 (4) all persons who were honorably discharged from the
10 armed forces of the United States after serving on active military
11 duty, excluding training, for more than 180 days and who served a
12 portion of their active duty during:

13 (A) the Cold War which began on the date of the
14 termination of the national emergency cited in Subdivision (3);

15 (B) the Vietnam era which began on December 21,
16 1961, and ended on May 7, 1975;

17 (C) the Grenada and Lebanon era which began on
18 August 24, 1982, and ended on July 31, 1984;

19 (D) the Panama era which began on December 20,
20 1989, and ended on January 21, 1990;

21 (E) the Persian Gulf War which began on August 2,
22 1990, and ends on the date thereafter prescribed by Presidential
23 proclamation or September 1, 1997, whichever occurs first;

24 (F) the national emergency by reason of certain
25 terrorist attacks that began on September 11, 2001; or

26 (G) any future national emergency declared in
27 accordance with federal law; and

1 (5) all current members of the Texas National Guard or
2 the Texas Air National Guard who have served on active state
3 military duty, excluding training, for more than 180 days, and all
4 members of the Texas National Guard or the Texas Air National Guard
5 who were honorably discharged after serving on active state
6 military duty, excluding training, for more than 180 days.

7 SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act to Section
8 [54.341](#), Education Code, apply beginning with tuition and fees
9 charged for the 2023 fall semester. Tuition and fees charged for a
10 term or semester before the 2023 fall semester are covered by the
11 law in effect immediately before the effective date of this Act, and
12 the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

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