

By: Eckhardt, Campbell

S.B. No. 371

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to 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 is enrolled in a degree or certificate program at a public or private institution of higher education in this state, 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. Subchapter FF, Chapter 61, Education Code, is
15 amended by adding Section 61.97731 to read as follows:

16 Sec. 61.97731. NOTICE REGARDING MINIMUM AND REQUIRED ROTC
17 TRAINING. The board shall post on the board's Internet website and
18 provide to each student before the student enters into an agreement
19 with the board under Section 61.9773 information regarding the
20 number of years of ROTC training that each entity described by
21 Section 61.9773(a)(3) requires or recommends before entering into a
22 commitment or contract described by that subdivision.

23 SECTION 3. Section 61.9773(a), Education Code, as amended
24 by this Act, applies beginning with a Texas Armed Services
25 Scholarship awarded for the 2024-2025 academic year. A Texas Armed
26 Services Scholarship awarded for an academic year before that
27 academic year is governed by the law in effect when the scholarship

1 was awarded, and the former law is continued in effect for that
2 purpose.

3 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.