

1-1 By: Springer S.B. No. 567  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed January 23, 2023; February 17, 2023,  
 1-3 read first time and referred to Subcommittee on Higher Education;  
 1-4 April 17, 2023, reported favorably from Committee on Education by  
 1-5 the following vote: Yeas 11, Nays 0; April 17, 2023, sent to  
 1-6 printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12			X	
1-13	X			
1-14			X	
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			
1-18	X			
1-19	X			
1-20	X			
1-21	X			

1-22 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-23 AN ACT

1-24 relating to firefighters enrolled in fire science courses.  
 1-25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:  
 1-26 SECTION 1. Section 54.353, Education Code, is amended to  
 1-27 read as follows:  
 1-28 Sec. 54.353. FIREFIGHTERS ENROLLED IN FIRE SCIENCE  
 1-29 COURSES. (a) The governing board of an institution of higher  
 1-30 education shall exempt from the payment of tuition and laboratory  
 1-31 fees any student enrolled in one or more courses offered as part of  
 1-32 a fire science curriculum who:  
 1-33 (1) is employed as a firefighter by a political  
 1-34 subdivision of this state; or  
 1-35 (2) is a member in good standing in a volunteer  
 1-36 firefighter department, registered with Texas Forest Service and  
 1-37 providing 911 service to a designated area [is currently, and has  
 1-38 been for at least one year, an active member of an organized  
 1-39 volunteer fire department participating in the Texas Emergency  
 1-40 Services Retirement System or a retirement system established under  
 1-41 the Texas Local Fire Fighters Retirement Act (Article 6243c,  
 1-42 Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes)] and who: [holds:]  
 1-43 (A) attends at least 20 hours of annual training;  
 1-44 (B) attends or provides support services for at  
 1-45 least 25 percent of the department's emergencies in a calendar  
 1-46 year; and  
 1-47 (C) holds:  
 1-48 (i) [-(A)] an Accredited Advanced level of  
 1-49 certification, or an equivalent successor certification, under the  
 1-50 State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas volunteer  
 1-51 certification program; or  
 1-52 (ii) [-(B)] Phase V (Firefighter II)  
 1-53 certification, or an equivalent successor certification, under the  
 1-54 Texas Commission on Fire Protection's voluntary certification  
 1-55 program under Section 419.071, Government Code.  
 1-56 (b) An exemption provided under this section does not apply  
 1-57 to deposits that may be required in the nature of security for the  
 1-58 return or proper care of property loaned for the use of students.  
 1-59 (c) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), a student who for a  
 1-60 semester or term at an institution of higher education receives an  
 1-61 exemption under this section may continue to receive the exemption

2-1 for a subsequent semester or term at any institution only if the  
2-2 student makes satisfactory academic progress toward a degree or  
2-3 certificate at that institution as determined by the institution  
2-4 for purposes of financial aid.

2-5 (d) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), the exemption provided  
2-6 under this section does not apply to any amount of additional  
2-7 tuition the institution elects to charge a resident undergraduate  
2-8 student under Section 54.014(a) or (f).

2-9 (e) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), the exemption provided  
2-10 under this section does not apply to any amount of tuition the  
2-11 institution charges a graduate student in excess of the amount of  
2-12 tuition charged to similarly situated graduate students because the  
2-13 student has a number of semester credit hours of doctoral work in  
2-14 excess of the applicable number provided by Section 61.059(1)(1) or  
2-15 (2).

2-16 (f) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall  
2-17 adopt:

2-18 (1) rules governing the granting or denial of an  
2-19 exemption under this section, including rules relating to the  
2-20 determination of a student's eligibility for an exemption; and

2-21 (2) a uniform listing of degree programs covered by  
2-22 the exemption under this section.

2-23 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

2-24 \* \* \* \* \*