

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD

Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 88TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 28, 2023

TO: Honorable John Kuempel, Chair, House Committee on Higher Education

FROM: Jerry McGinty, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB4666 by Dean (Relating to tuition and fee exemptions for certain military personnel and their dependents.), **As Introduced**

The fiscal implications of the bill cannot be determined at this time. The bill would expand the eligibility for veterans' educational benefits to certain persons who had served in the Armed Forces Reserve Components or Texas National Guard, which could have a significant fiscal impact on institutional funds for institutions of higher education. However, because it is unknown how many eligible students would utilize the benefits, applicable waived tuition and fee revenue cannot be estimated.

The bill would amend the Education Code relating to tuition and fee exemptions for certain veterans and their dependents. Tuition and fee exemptions in this section of the Education Code, also known as the Hazlewood Act, primarily provide benefits for veterans; children and spouses of certain deceased, disabled, or missing-in-action veterans; and dependents transferred the unused credit hours of an eligible veteran through the Legacy Program. The exemption applies to statutory tuition, designated tuition, and certain fees at public institutions of higher education, including general academic institutions, health related institutions, public community/junior colleges, and other two-year institutions.

The bill would expand eligibility for tuition and fee exemptions at public institutions of higher education to include all persons who were honorably discharged from the Armed Forces Reserve Components or Texas National Guard after having served at least 20 years.

Institutions of higher education indicate the bill could impact institutional funds due to the foregone tuition and fee revenue for eligible participants. However, the fiscal implications of this bill cannot be determined at this time because it is unknown how many individuals would qualify for Hazlewood benefits under the bill's provisions and utilize such benefits at a public institution of higher education.

Local Government Impact

The fiscal implications of the bill cannot be determined at this time.

Source Agencies: 403 Veterans Commission, 710 Texas A&M University System Administrative and General Offices, 720 The University of Texas System Administration, 758 Texas State University System, 768 Texas Tech University System Administration, 769 University of North Texas System Administration, 781 Higher Education Coordinating Board, 783 University of Houston System Administration

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