By:  Hinojosa of Nueces S.B. No. 2231

(In the Senate - Filed March 11, 2025; March 25, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Education K-16; April 9, 2025, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 10, Nays 0; April 9, 2025, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

                    Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Creighton         X

Campbell             X

Bettencourt          X

Hagenbuch            X

Hinojosa of Nueces   X

King                           X

Menéndez             X

Middleton            X

Parker               X

Paxton               X

West                 X

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to requiring the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to waive fees for admission applications submitted to public institutions of higher education during certain periods.

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

SECTION 1.  Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 61.0731 to read as follows:

Sec. 61.0731.  WAIVER OF CERTAIN APPLICATION FEES; FREE COLLEGE APPLICATION WEEK. (a) The board shall designate the second full week of October as Free College Application Week. During the designated week, the board shall permit individuals in this state to apply to any institution of higher education for undergraduate admission without paying an application fee.

(b)  The board may adopt rules as necessary to implement Subsection (a).

SECTION 2.  Section 61.0731, Education Code, as added by this Act, applies beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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