

By: Alders, Dean, Harless, et al.

H.B. No. 1527

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to tuition and fee exemptions at public institutions of higher education for certain peace officers.

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

SECTION 1. Section 54.3531, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

(a) The governing board of an institution of higher education shall exempt from the payment of tuition and laboratory fees a student enrolled in one or more courses offered as part of a law enforcement-related degree program ~~[charged by the institution for a criminal justice or law enforcement course or courses an undergraduate student]~~ who:

(1) is employed as a peace officer by this state or by a political subdivision of this state;

(2) is enrolled in a ~~[criminal justice or]~~ law enforcement-related degree program at the institution;

(3) is making satisfactory academic progress toward the student's degree as determined by the institution; ~~and~~

(4) holds a basic peace officer proficiency certificate issued by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement under Section 1701.402, Occupations Code; and

(5) applies for the exemption at least one week before the last date of the institution's regular registration period for

the applicable semester or other term.

(a-1) For purposes of Subsection (a), a law enforcement-related degree program includes a program in:

- (1) criminal justice;
- (2) public administration and public affairs;
- (3) emergency management;
- (4) youth and community studies;
- (5) law;
- (6) Spanish or any other foreign language commonly spoken in this state;
- (7) accounting, including forensic accounting;
- (8) psychology;
- (9) social work, including clinical social work;
- (10) nursing;
- (11) chemistry;
- (12) biology;
- (13) forensic science; or
- (14) computer science, data science, and cybersecurity.

SECTION 2. Section 54.3531, Education Code, as amended by this Act, applies beginning with tuition and other fees charged for the 2025 fall semester. Tuition and other fees charged for an academic period before that semester are governed by the law in effect immediately before the effective date of this Act, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

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1 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
3 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.