

By: Keffer

H.B. No. 2013

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to tuition and laboratory fee exemptions at public institutions of higher education for certain volunteer firefighters enrolled in fire science courses.

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

SECTION 1. Section 54.208, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 54.208. FIREFIGHTERS [~~FIREMEN~~] ENROLLED IN FIRE SCIENCE COURSES. (a) The governing board of an institution of higher education [~~boards of the state institutions of collegiate rank supported in whole or in part by public funds~~] shall exempt from the payment of tuition and laboratory fees any student enrolled in one or more courses offered as part of a fire science curriculum who:

(1) [~~person who~~] is employed as a firefighter [~~fireman~~] by a political subdivision of this state; or

(2) is an active member of an organized volunteer fire department in this state who holds:

(A) an Accredited Advanced level of certification, or an equivalent successor certification, under the State Firemen's and Fire Marshal's Association of Texas volunteer certification program; or

(B) Phase V (Firefighter II) certification, or an equivalent successor certification, under the Texas Commission on

1 Fire Protection's voluntary certification program under Section  
2 419.071, Government Code [~~and who enrolls in a course or courses~~  
3 ~~offered as part of a fire science curriculum~~].

4 (b) An [~~The~~] exemption provided under this section does not  
5 apply to deposits that [~~which~~] may be required in the nature of  
6 security for the return or proper care of property loaned for the  
7 use of students.

8 SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act to Section  
9 54.208, Education Code, apply beginning with tuition and laboratory  
10 fees charged for the 2009 fall semester. Tuition and laboratory  
11 fees charged for an academic period before the 2009 fall semester  
12 are covered by the law in effect immediately before the effective  
13 date of this Act, and the former law is continued in effect for that  
14 purpose.

15 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
16 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
17 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
18 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
19 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.