

By: Thibaut, Guillen

H.B. No. 2347

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to tuition and laboratory fee exemptions at public
3 institutions of higher education for certain peace officers
4 enrolled in criminal justice or law enforcement management-related
5 course work.

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

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

9 Sec. 54.208. FIREFIGHTERS AND PEACE OFFICERS [~~FIREMEN~~]
10 ENROLLED IN CERTAIN [~~FIRE SCIENCE~~] COURSES. (a) The governing
11 board of an institution of higher education [~~boards of the state~~
12 ~~institutions of collegiate rank supported in whole or in part by~~
13 ~~public funds~~] shall exempt from the payment of tuition and
14 laboratory fees a student [~~any person~~] who:

15 (1) is employed as a firefighter [~~fireman~~] by a [~~any~~]
16 political subdivision of this [~~the~~] state and who enrolls in a
17 course or courses offered as part of a fire science curriculum; or

18 (2) is employed as a peace officer by the state or by a
19 political subdivision of this state and who enrolls in a course or
20 courses offered as part of a criminal justice or law enforcement
21 management-related curriculum.

22 (b) An [~~The~~] exemption provided under this section does not
23 apply to deposits that [~~which~~] may be required in the nature of
24 security for the return or proper care of property loaned for the

1 use of students.

2 (c) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
3 adopt:

4 (1) rules governing the granting or denial of an
5 exemption under this section, including rules relating to the
6 determination of a student's eligibility for an exemption; and

7 (2) a uniform listing of degree programs covered by
8 the exemption under this section.

9 (d) If the legislature does not specifically appropriate
10 funds to an institution of higher education in an amount sufficient
11 to pay the institution's costs in complying with this section for a
12 semester, the governing board of the institution of higher
13 education shall report to the Senate Finance Committee and the
14 House Appropriations Committee the cost to the institution of
15 complying with this section for that semester.

16 SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act to Section
17 54.208, Education Code, apply beginning with tuition and laboratory
18 fees charged for the 2009 fall semester. Tuition and laboratory
19 fees charged for an academic period before the 2009 fall semester
20 are covered by the law in effect immediately before the effective
21 date of this Act, and the former law is continued in effect for that
22 purpose.

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