

By: Eissler

H. B. No. 40

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to tuition assistance granted to certain members of state
3 military forces attending public or private institutions of higher
4 education.

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

6 SECTION 1. Sections 431.090(d) and (f), Government Code,
7 are amended to read as follows:

1 unless the adjutant general finds a compelling need for additional
2 awards to members of the Texas State Guard.

3 (f) A person may receive tuition assistance under this
4 section for a period equal to one academic year for each calendar
5 year or part of a calendar year of the person's service in the state
6 military forces as described by Subsection (c), except that the
7 person may not receive tuition assistance [under this section] for:

8 (1) more than 15 [~~12~~] semester credit hours in any
9 semester; or

10 (2) more than five academic years or 10 semesters,
11 whichever occurs first for the person.

12 SECTION 2. Section 54.2155(a), Education Code, is amended
13 to read as follows:

14 (a) In the manner established by the Texas Higher Education
15 Coordinating Board, for each semester the coordinating board shall
16 certify to institutions of higher education information
17 identifying the persons to whom the adjutant general of the state
18 military forces has awarded tuition assistance under Section
19 431.090, Government Code, if the coordinating board has determined
20 that sufficient money is available to reimburse institutions for
21 tuition exemptions granted under this section and to make tuition
22 assistance grants under Subsection (c). An institution of higher
23 education shall exempt a person certified by the coordinating board
24 under this section from the payment of tuition for the semester
25 credit hours for which the person enrolls, not to exceed 15 [~~12~~]
semester credit hours. If the person is not charged tuition at the
rate provided for other Texas residents, the amount of the

1 exemption may not exceed the amount of tuition the person would be
2 charged as a Texas resident for the number of semester credit hours
3 for which the person enrolls, not to exceed 15 [~~12~~] semester credit
4 hours.

5 SECTION 3. (a) The change in law made by this Act applies
6 only to tuition assistance granted for a semester or summer session
7 that begins on or after December 1, 2005.

8 (b) The adjutant general shall adopt the rules required by
9 Section 431.090(d), Government Code, as amended by this Act, not
10 later than November 1, 2005.

11 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
12 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
13 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
14 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
15 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.