

SUBJECT: In-state tuition for certain residents of bordering states

COMMITTEE: Higher Education — favorable, with amendment

VOTE: 7 ayes — Rangel, Ogden, Gallego, Goolsby, Harris, Moreno, Reyna
0 nays
2 absent — Kamel, Rodriguez

WITNESSES: For — None
Against — None
On — Don Brown, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board; Dr. Robert Krienke, Lamar University Institute of Technology

BACKGROUND: The Education Code allows residents of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico and Oklahoma who attend Texas public junior colleges and technical institutes in counties immediately adjacent to their state to pay in-state tuition.

DIGEST: HB 1836, as amended, would allow residents of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico and Oklahoma to pay in-state tuition at two-year institutions in the Lamar University System (Lamar University-Orange, Lamar-Port Arthur and the Lamar University Institute of Technology-Beaumont).

The bill would apply starting in fall 1995 and would take immediate effect if approved by two-thirds of the membership of each house.

SUPPORTERS SAY: HB 1836 primarily would help Louisiana students who would be attracted to enroll at the two-year institutions in the Lamar University System by a financial break. The Lamar University system attracts many students from neighboring states, including Louisiana. More students would be able to attend Lamar if they were able to pay Texas-resident tuition, which is considerably lower than out-of-state tuition. Attracting more students would allow more efficient utilization of these higher education facilities and promote economic development in the area.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

Higher education in Texas is already a bargain for out-of-state students, and they would continue to come here even without in-state tuition rates. The state ranks near the bottom among the states in tuition rates. When state revenue is already tight, the state should be wary of adding unnecessary inducements to out-of-state students. Furthermore, the state already offers a variety of tuition and fee waivers that cost the state millions of dollars a year.

DIGEST:

The committee amendment states that if an institution's governance is transferred by the Legislature from the Lamar system to another board, the tuition provision would still apply to the institution.