SUBJECT: Partial tuition discounts for high school students attending junior colleges

COMMITTEE: Higher Education — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 6 ayes — Morrison, F. Brown, Giddings, J. Jones, Mercer, Nixon

                0 nays

                2 absent — Chavez, Smithee

WITNESSES: None

BACKGROUND: Education Code, sec. 130.008 allows a junior college to waive tuition for a
                high school student enrolled in a course for which the student may receive
                joint high school and junior college credit.

                Junior colleges receive state funding through formulas based on the number
                of contact (classroom) hours. Junior colleges that waive tuition for high
                school students receiving joint credit may count the student's contact hours
                for state funding purposes.

DIGEST: HB 1621 would allow a junior college to waive all or part of the tuition and
                fees for a student enrolled in a junior college course for joint credit. The
                junior college would receive credit for all contact hours attributable to the
                enrollment of a high school student in a junior college course, even if the
                college waived all or a portion of the tuition and fees.

                The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record
                vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect
                September 1, 2003.

SUPPORTERS   HB 1621 would encourage more junior colleges to offer reduced fees to high
SAY: school students seeking joint credit, which, in turn, would create another
                incentive for high school students to complete their educations sooner by
                taking joint-credit courses.

Currently, about 250,000 high school students in Texas take joint-credit courses at junior colleges. However, junior colleges do not have the option of offering tuition discounts for these students, and many junior colleges have chosen not to waive tuition for these students entirely. Junior colleges would be more likely to offer a tuition reduction to high school students than a full tuition waiver.

OPPONENTS
SAY:

No apparent opposition.