

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

S.B. 666  
By: Barrientos  
Finance  
4-1-97  
As Filed

### **DIGEST**

Currently, to qualify for federal financial aid and loans, graduate students must register for nine hours. The nine hours are really empty hours; the students attend no classes. However, upon finishing their organized course work, graduate students must often complete either a dissertation, report, or thesis. S.B. 666 exempts the payment of tuition fees for graduate students who have completed their organized work and are working on their dissertation, report, or thesis. Additionally, these students would be provided with health insurance.

### **PURPOSE**

As proposed, S.B. 666 exempts the payment of tuition fees for a graduate student who meets certain provisions.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Section 54.063, Education Code, to authorize an assistant instructor or the children and spouse of an assistant instructor of any institution of higher education to pay tuition and fees as Texas residents. Requires the governing board of an institution of higher education to exempt from the payment of tuition fees a graduate student who meets certain provisions. Sets forth the conditions under which a student is considered to be enrolled as a full-time student. Provides that a student exempt under Subsection (b) is exempt from payment of a fee for the use of a health center. Requires the legislature to compute local funds available to each institution as if the tuition fees were collected by the institution. Defines "general academic teaching institution."

SECTION 2. Amends Chapter 51Z, Education Code, by adding Section 51.9085, as follows:

Sec. 51.9085. HEALTH INSURANCE FOR CERTAIN GRADUATE STUDENT EMPLOYEES. Sets forth requirements under which certain full-time students are permitted to participate in group health insurance provided to full-time employees of the institution.

SECTION 3. Provides that the change in the law made by this Act applies beginning with the 1997 fall semester.

SECTION 4. Emergency clause.  
Effective date: upon passage.