

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
77R6799 JSA-D

H.B. 2276
By: Giddings (Sponsor Unknown)
Education
5/11/2001
Engrossed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, tuition rebate incentives for individuals who complete degree programs without excessive credit only apply to undergraduate students at four-year institutions. Tuition rebate incentives encourage students to complete their undergraduate studies expeditiously and may save the state money since students taking fewer courses and spending shorter periods of time on campuses cost the state less money. H.B. 2276 allows qualified students at a public junior college, public technical institute, or general academic teaching institution that offers only freshman-level and sophomore-level courses to receive a tuition rebate incentive if they complete a degree or certificate program of at least 60 credit hours while attempting no more than three hours in excess of the minimum required hours.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

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

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

H.B. 2276 amends the Education Code to provide that a qualified student at a public junior college, public technical institute, or general academic teaching institution that offers only freshman-level and sophomore-level courses is eligible for a rebate of a portion of the undergraduate tuition the student has paid if the student is awarded an associate degree or other degree or certificate in a program that requires at least 60 semester credit hours and has attempted no more than three hours in excess of the minimum number of semester credit hours required to complete the degree or certificate, including transfer credits and course credit earned exclusively by examination. The bill provides that the amount of tuition to be rebated to a student under these provisions is the lesser of \$500 or the amount of tuition paid by the student.

The bill requires the legislature to appropriate an amount sufficient to reimburse each public junior college for any rebates paid by the college in the period used to determine the contact hours for the junior college's appropriation. The bill requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (coordinating board) to transfer the appropriate portion of the amount appropriated for tuition rebates to each public junior college in the same manner as appropriations allocated to the college.

Effective date: September 1, 2001.