

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
78R2303 JSA-D

H.B. 261
By: Hupp (Fraser)
Administration
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Engrossed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Military families are among the most mobile members of our society. Some believe that a university enrollee who is in the military, or is a dependent of military personnel, should be able to continue paying tuition at an in state rate even if the member of the military retires. H.B. 261 provides that a member of the armed forces of the United States, or the child or spouse thereof, who is entitled to pay tuition and fees at the rate provided for Texas residents under another provision of this section while enrolled in a degree or certificate program is entitled to pay tuition and fees at the rate provided for Texas residents in any subsequent term or semester while the person is continuously enrolled in the same degree or certificate program, and provides that the provision does not terminate because the person is no longer a member of the armed forces of the United States, or the child or spouse of a member of the armed forces of the United States.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

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

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 54.058, Education Code, by adding Subsection (j), as follows:

(j) Provides that a member of the armed forces of the United States, or the child or spouse of a member of the armed forces of the United States, who is entitled to pay tuition and fees at the rate provided for Texas residents under another provision of this section while enrolled in a degree or certificate program is entitled to pay tuition and fees at the rate provided for Texas residents in any subsequent term or semester while the person is continuously enrolled in the same degree or certificate program. Provides that for the purposes of this subsection, a person is not required to enroll in a summer term to remain continuously enrolled in a degree or certificate program. Provides that the person's eligibility to pay tuition and fees at the rate provided for Texas residents under this subsection does not terminate because the person is no longer a member of the armed forces of the United States, or the child or spouse of a member of the armed forces of the United States.

SECTION 2. Provides that Section 54.058(j), as added by this Act, applies beginning with the 2003 fall semester to a person who was a member of the armed forces of the United States, or the child or spouse of a member of the armed forces of the United States, entitled to pay tuition and fees at the rate provided for Texas residents under Section 54.058 (Military Personnel and Dependents), Education Code, while enrolled in a degree or certificate program at a public institution of higher education in this state in the 2003 spring semester or in any term of the 2003 summer session.

SECTION 3. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2003.