

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
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C.S.H.B. 846
By: Raney et al. (Menéndez)
Veteran Affairs & Border Security
5/11/2017
Committee Report (Substituted)

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

Interested parties point out that certain students in Texas who have attempted to use financial assistance for veterans and their families have faced additional hurdles in using that assistance to pay for college courses. H.B. 846 seeks to help these students by implementing assistance programs for veterans and their families. (Original Author's / Sponsor's Statement of Intent)

C.S.H.B. 846 amends current law relating to the implementation of student financial assistance programs for veterans and their families.

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 Subchapter A, Chapter 56, Education Code, by adding Section 56.0065, as follows:

Sec. 56.0065. STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS AND FAMILIES; EQUAL PROTECTION. (a) Defines "private or independent institution of higher education."

(b) Prohibits an institution of higher education (IHE) or a private or independent IHE from imposing additional fees, obligations, or burdens concerning payment or registration on a student eligible for state or federal military related student financial assistance programs for military veterans or their family members that are not otherwise required by those programs to be imposed for the purpose of receiving that assistance.

(c) Requires an IHE or a private or independent IHE to provide for a student described by Subsection (b) to defer payment of tuition and fees if the receipt of military related financial assistance awarded to the student is delayed by less than 60 days. Requires the Texas Veterans Commission, in cooperation with IHEs and private or independent IHEs to prescribe a standard deferment request form for the purposes of this subsection.

(d) Provides that this section does not prohibit an IHE or a private or independent IHE from requiring a student described by Subsection (b) to submit a free application for federal application for federal student aid (FAFSA).

SECTION 2. Provides that the changes in law made by this Act apply beginning with the 2017-2018 academic year.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 2017.