

By: Holland

H.B. No. 1590

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to tuition and fee exemptions at public institutions of higher education for certain military personnel dependents.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Sections 54.341(a-2) and (b), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a-2) The exemptions provided for in Subsection (a) also apply to the spouse of:

(1) a member of the armed forces of the United States:

(A) who was killed in action;

(B) who died while in service;

(C) who is missing in action;

(D) whose death is documented to be directly caused by illness or injury connected with service in the armed forces of the United States; or

(E) who, as a result of a service-related injury:

(i) became at least 80 percent disabled according to the disability ratings of the United States Department of Defense; or

(ii) became totally and permanently disabled or meets the eligibility requirements for individual unemployability according to the disability ratings of the Department of Veterans Affairs ~~[as a result of a service-related injury]~~; or

(2) a member of the Texas National Guard or the Texas Air National Guard who:

(A) was killed since January 1, 1946, while on active duty either in the service of this state or the United States; or

(B) as a result of a service-related injury suffered since January 1, 1946, while on active duty either in the service of this state or the United States:

(i) is at least 80 percent disabled according to the disability ratings of the United States Department of Defense, regardless of whether the member is eligible to receive disability benefits from the department; or

(ii) is totally and permanently disabled or meets the eligibility requirements for individual unemployability according to the disability ratings of the Department of Veterans Affairs, regardless of whether the member is eligible to receive disability benefits from the department~~[, as a result of a service-related injury suffered since January 1, 1946, while on active duty either in the service of this state or the United States].~~

(b) The exemptions provided for in Subsection (a) also apply to:

(1) the children of members of the armed forces of the United States:

(A) who are or were killed in action;

(B) who die or died while in service;

(C) who are missing in action;

(D) whose death is documented to be directly caused by illness or injury connected with service in the armed forces of the United States; or

(E) who, as a result of a service-related injury:

(i) became at least 80 percent disabled according to the disability ratings of the United States Department of Defense; or

(ii) became totally and permanently disabled or meet the eligibility requirements for individual unemployability according to the disability ratings of the Department of Veterans Affairs ~~[as a result of a service-related injury]~~; and

(2) the children of members of the Texas National Guard and the Texas Air National Guard who:

(A) were killed since January 1, 1946, while on active duty either in the service of their state or the United States; or

(B) as a result of a service-related injury suffered since January 1, 1946, while on active duty either in the service of this state or the United States:

(i) are at least 80 percent disabled according to the disability ratings of the United States Department of Defense, regardless of whether the members are eligible to receive disability benefits from the department; or

(ii) are totally and permanently disabled or meet the eligibility requirements for individual unemployability according to the disability ratings of the Department of Veterans

1 Affairs, regardless of whether the members are eligible to receive
2 disability benefits from the department[, ~~as a result of a~~
3 ~~service-related injury suffered since January 1, 1946, while on~~
4 ~~active duty either in the service of this state or the United~~
5 ~~States~~].

6 SECTION 2. Section [54.341](#), Education Code, as amended by
7 this Act, applies to an exemption from the payment of all or part of
8 tuition or other fees beginning with tuition and fees charged for
9 the 2018 fall semester.

10 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.