By: Holland H.B. No. 1590

## A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1	AN ACT
2	relating to tuition and fee exemptions at public institutions of
3	higher education for certain military personnel dependents.
4	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
5	SECTION 1. Sections $54.341(a-2)$ and $(b)$ , Education Code,
6	are amended to read as follows:
7	(a-2) The exemptions provided for in Subsection (a) also
8	apply to the spouse of:
9	(1) a member of the armed forces of the United States:
10	(A) who was killed in action;
11	(B) who died while in service;
12	(C) who is missing in action;
13	(D) whose death is documented to be directly
14	caused by illness or injury connected with service in the armed
15	forces of the United States; or
16	(E) who, as a result of a service-related injury:
17	(i) became at least 80 percent disabled
18	according to the disability ratings of the United States Department
19	of Defense; or
20	(ii) became totally and permanently disabled
21	or meets the eligibility requirements for individual
22	unemployability according to the disability ratings of the
23	Department of Veterans Affairs [as a result of a service-related
24	injury]; or

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- 1 (2) a member of the Texas National Guard or the Texas
- 2 Air National Guard who:
- 3 (A) was killed since January 1, 1946, while on
- 4 active duty either in the service of this state or the United
- 5 States; or
- 6 (B) as a result of a service-related injury
- 7 suffered since January 1, 1946, while on active duty either in the
- 8 service of this state or the United States:
- 9 (i) is at least 80 percent disabled
- 10 according to the disability ratings of the United States Department
- of Defense, regardless of whether the member is eligible to receive
- 12 <u>disability benefits from the department; or</u>
- 13 (ii) is totally and permanently disabled or
- 14 meets the eligibility requirements for individual unemployability
- 15 according to the disability ratings of the Department of Veterans
- 16 Affairs, regardless of whether the member is eligible to receive
- 17 disability benefits from the department  $[\frac{1}{2}]$  as a result of a
- 18 service-related injury suffered since January 1, 1946, while on
- 19 active duty either in the service of this state or the United
- 20 States].
- 21 (b) The exemptions provided for in Subsection (a) also apply
- 22 to:
- 23 (1) the children of members of the armed forces of the
- 24 United States:
- 25 (A) who are or were killed in action;
- 26 (B) who die or died while in service;
- 27 (C) who are missing in action;

- whose death is documented to be directly 1 caused by illness or injury connected with service in the armed 2 3 forces of the United States; or who, as a result of a service-related injury: 4 (E) 5 (i) became at least 80 percent disabled according to the disability ratings of the United States Department 6 of Defense; or 7 8 (ii) became totally and permanently disabled eligibility requirements for individual 9 10 unemployability according to the disability ratings of the Department of Veterans Affairs [as a result of a service-related 11 12 injury]; and the children of members of the Texas National 13 14 Guard and the Texas Air National Guard who: 15 (A) were killed since January 1, 1946, while on active duty either in the service of their state or the United 16
- 17 States; or

  18 (B) <u>as a result of a service-related injury</u>

  19 <u>suffered since January 1, 1946, while on active duty either in the</u>

  20 <u>service of this state or the United States:</u>
- (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
- 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

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- 1 Affairs, regardless of whether the members are eligible to receive
- 2 disability benefits from the department[ $_{7}$  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.