

By: Seliger

S.B. No. 19

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to temporary limitations on the amount of tuition and fees charged by certain public institutions of higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 54, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 54.0514 to read as follows:

Sec. 54.0514. TEMPORARY LIMITATION ON TOTAL AMOUNT OF TUITION. (a) In this section:

(1) "General academic teaching institution" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

(2) "Tuition" includes:

(A) tuition for which the rates are prescribed by this chapter; and

(B) tuition charged by a general academic teaching institution under Section 54.0513 or another law authorizing an institution to establish tuition rates.

(b) Notwithstanding Section 54.0513 or another law authorizing an institution to establish tuition rates, the total amount of tuition charged by a general academic teaching institution to a student for the 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021, or 2021-2022 academic year may not exceed the total amount of tuition that the institution would have charged under this chapter to a similarly situated student for the 2016-2017 academic year.

(c) For purposes of this section, students are similarly

1 situated if they share the same residency status, degree program,
2 course load, course level, tuition exemption status, and other
3 circumstances affecting the tuition charged to the student.

4 (d) This section does not ensure that the total amount of
5 tuition charged to an individual student does not increase based on
6 a change in the student's residency status, degree program, course
7 load, course level, tuition exemption status, or other circumstance
8 affecting the tuition charged to the student.

9 (e) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board may adopt
10 rules as necessary to administer this section.

11 (f) This section expires August 31, 2022.

12 SECTION 2. Subchapter E, Chapter 54, Education Code, is
13 amended by adding Section 54.5001 to read as follows:

14 Sec. 54.5001. TEMPORARY LIMITATIONS ON FEE INCREASES. (a)
15 In this section, "general academic teaching institution" has the
16 meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

17 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter
18 or other law, in each of the 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021, and
19 2021-2022 academic years, the governing board of a general academic
20 teaching institution may not charge a fee under this subchapter in
21 an amount that is greater than the amount of the fee charged by the
22 institution in the 2016-2017 academic year.

23 (c) The limitation provided by this section applies to a fee
24 even if an increase in the amount of the fee is approved by a vote of
25 the students, student government, or student fee advisory committee
26 of the general academic teaching institution.

27 (d) This section expires August 31, 2022.

1 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
3 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
4 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
5 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.