

SUBJECT: Resident tuition for Air Force personnel in MSU radiology program

COMMITTEE: Higher Education — favorable, with amendment

VOTE: 6 ayes — Rangel, Gallego, Goolsby, Harris, Kamel, Rodriguez

1 nay — Ogden

1 present, not voting — Reyna

1 absent — Moreno

WITNESSES: For — Dr. Louis J. Rodriguez

Against — None

BACKGROUND: Midwestern State University (MSU), a 6,000-student state university in Wichita Falls, offers bachelor of science and master of science degrees in radiological science. Students may participate in the radiologic health care study program through a telecommunications network.

DIGEST: HB 2068, as amended, would amend Education Code sec 54.058 to allow U.S. Air Force personnel stationed outside Texas who are enrolled in Midwestern University's bachelors or masters degree program in radiological science by instructional telecommunication to pay in-state resident tuition and fees if they began the program while stationed in Texas.

Instructional telecommunication would refer to instruction delivered through technology such as open-channel television, cable television, closed-circuit television, low power television, communication and/or direct broadcast satellite, satellite master antenna system, microwave, videotape, videodisc, computer software, computer networks, and telephone lines.

The bill would take effect on September 1, 1995.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

HB 2068 would help out-of-state Air Force students enrolled in the radiology program at MSU finish work on bachelor or masters degree programs by giving them a needed financial break — in-state-resident tuition — when they have been assigned outside Texas.

Radiologic technicians increasingly must have bachelors or masters degrees because of the amount of information and education required in the radiology technology field. The bachelor of science program in radiological science began at MSU in 1974 to train technologists and allow students to attend classes on a part-time basis. No similar bachelors program is offered elsewhere in Texas. The masters of science program is the first of its kind in the nation and provides the essential advanced education for radiologic technology students and radiologic administrators in a health care delivery setting.

Students enrolled in the bachelor's program watch lectures and course supplements either on videotape or through closed-circuit satellite "health nets," then are tested at an approved education center. Study guides and textbook lectures compliment the videotapes. The master's program is an independent study program.

Air Force personnel who begin their studies of radiography in the associates degree program at MSU often hope to continue their education by seeking a bachelors or masters degree. Once Air Force personnel leave Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, however, they no longer qualify for in-state tuition. Approximately 20 students a year would like to obtain advanced training and degree at MSU, but face the burden of out-of-state tuition rates.

The tuition break will demonstrate to the rest of the country that the state of Texas will do its best to accommodate the needs of military personnel who pass through Texas bases like Sheppard Air Force Base.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

Higher education in Texas already among the great bargains in the nation for out-of-state students. The state ranks near the bottom among the states in the rates it charges undergraduate and graduate students. When state revenue is already tight, the state should be wary of adding unnecessary inducements to out-of-state students. Furthermore, the state already offers a

variety of tuition and fee waivers that cost the state millions of dollars a year. In-state tuition represents a major subsidy by the state of the cost of education. The state should carefully consider the wisdom of this highly specialized tuition break, and of others that the state offers.

NOTES:

The committee amendment to HB 2068 would provide that students would be eligible for in-state tuition only if they started the program at any Air Force base in Texas.

The House on Tuesday passed on third reading HB 1146 by Mowery, which would eliminate a nonresident tuition waiver for certain competitive scholarship students.