

- SUBJECT:** Informing certain adopted students of tuition and fees exemptions
- COMMITTEE:** Higher Education — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — Lozano, Raney, Alonzo, Alvarado, Button, Howard, Turner
- 0 nays
- 2 absent — Clardy, Morrison
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Dwight Harris, Texas AFT)
- Against — None
- On — Jerel Booker, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
- BACKGROUND:** Education Code, sec. 54.367 exempts students who were adopted from foster or other residential care from paying tuition and fees for higher education. Observers point out that the state's tuition and fee waiver program for these students could be more fully utilized.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 4241 would require the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to solicit information on the common admission application form to assist institutions of higher education in determining whether an applicant was eligible for tuition and fee exemptions available to adopted students formerly in foster or other residential care. The coordinating board by rule would require institutions of higher education to send information on the tuition and fee exemption to applicants who had been determined to be eligible based on information collected on the admission application.
- The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2017, and would apply to applications submitted for the 2018-19 academic year.