

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
78R2276 JRJ-D

H.B. 405
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Veteran Affairs & Military Installations
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Engrossed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, Texas law allows a spouse or children of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States to receive in-state residency status for college tuition purposes. However, if the member of the Armed Forces is transferred out of Texas or deployed overseas, the spouse or child could lose residency status and have to pay significantly higher tuition bills. H.B. 405 provides that a child or spouse of a member of the Armed Forces who has served in Texas for six months is required to receive in-state tuition as long as the spouse or child resides continuously in Texas.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Sections 54.058(c), (d), (f), and (g), Education Code, as follows:

- (c) Authorizes the spouse or child, of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States assigned to duty elsewhere immediately following duty in Texas for entitlement to in-state tuition as long as the spouse or child resides continuously in Texas.
- (d) Specifies that a spouse or dependent child of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, who is not, but has been, assigned to duty in Texas for six months, is entitled to in-state tuition for any term or semester, rather than a term or semester, at an institution of higher education under certain circumstances.
- (f) Specifies that the spouse or child, rather than children, of a member of the Armed Forces who dies or is killed is entitled to in-state tuition if the spouse or child becomes a resident of Texas within 60 days of the date of the service member's death.
- (g) Makes conforming and nonsubstantive changes.

SECTION 2. Provides that this Act applies beginning with tuition charged for the 2003 fall semester.

SECTION 3. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2003.