

AN ACT

relating to the implementation of student financial assistance programs for veterans and their families.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 56, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 56.0065 to read as follows:

Sec. 56.0065. STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS AND FAMILIES; EQUAL PROTECTION. (a) In this section, "private or independent institution of higher education" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

(b) An institution of higher education or a private or independent institution of higher education may not impose additional fees, obligations, or burdens concerning payment or registration on a student eligible for state or federal military related student financial assistance programs for military veterans or their family members that are not otherwise required by those programs to be imposed for the purpose of receiving that assistance.

(c) An institution of higher education or a private or independent institution of higher education must provide for a student described by Subsection (b) to defer payment of tuition and fees if the receipt of military related financial assistance awarded to the student is delayed by less than 60 days. The Texas Veterans Commission, in cooperation with institutions of higher

1 education and private or independent institutions of higher
2 education, shall prescribe a standard deferment request form for
3 the purposes of this subsection.

4 (d) This section does not prohibit an institution of higher
5 education or a private or independent institution of higher
6 education from requiring a student described by Subsection (b) to
7 submit a free application for federal student aid (FAFSA).

8 SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply
9 beginning with the 2017-2018 academic year.

10 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 846 was passed by the House on April 13, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 138, Nays 0, 3 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 846 on May 26, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 142, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 846 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 24, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor