

- SUBJECT:** Revising the conditions for the Texas Armed Services Scholarship
- COMMITTEE:** Higher Education — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 10 ayes — C. Turner, Stucky, Button, Frullo, Howard, Pacheco, Schaefer, Smithee, Walle, Wilson
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — E. Johnson
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Thomas Parkinson)
- Against — None
- On — Charles Puls, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
- BACKGROUND:** Education Code sec. 61.9773 establishes the requirements for the Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program. It includes the stipulation that, upon graduation from an institution of higher education, recipients must enter into a four-year commitment to be a member of certain branches of the Texas Military Forces, the U.S. Coast Guard, or the U.S. Merchant Marines. Alternatively, the recipient could enter into a contract to serve as a commissioned officer in any branch of the armed services of the United States.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 1180 would allow recipients of the Texas Armed Services Scholarship to complete a graduate or post-graduate degree program at a public or private institution in Texas prior to entering into a commitment or contract for military service. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board would be required to adopt rules to manage the deferment program as soon as practicable after the bill takes effect.
- The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2019.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

CSHB 1180 would allow Texas students to pursue a graduate degree and gain beneficial skills to bring to their desired branch of the armed forces. Current recipients are unable to receive a graduate or postgraduate degree until after their service commitment or contract is complete. This bill would give interested students the ability to continue their education without interruption while still maintaining their commitment to service. CSHB 1180 would not increase the amount of money a recipient received; rather, it would allow for deferment of service for the pursuit of education.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

No concerns identified.