

- SUBJECT:** Changing requirements for in-state tuition for certain military spouses
- COMMITTEE:** Higher Education — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — C. Turner, Stucky, Button, Howard, E. Johnson, Schaefer, Walle
- 0 nays
- 4 absent — Frullo, Pacheco, Smithee, Wilson
- WITNESSES:** For — Jim Brennan, Texas Coalition of Veterans Organizations;  
(*Registered, but did not testify:* Leticia Van de Putte, City of Del Rio;  
James Dickey, Republican Party of Texas)
- Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Education Code sec. 54.241(g) requires an institution of higher education in the state to permit the spouse or child of a member of the U.S. armed forces stationed outside of Texas to pay in-state tuition, fees, and other related charges without regard to length of time the spouse or child has resided in Texas if the spouse or child establishes residence by:
- residing in Texas; and
  - filing a letter of intent to establish residence in Texas with the institution of higher education at which the spouse or child plans to register.
- DIGEST:** HB 739 would require a public institution of higher education in the state to, in addition to permissions already laid out in statute, permit a spouse of a member of the U.S. armed forces who is stationed outside Texas to pay in-state tuition and fees if the spouse:
- graduated from a public or private high school in Texas or received the equivalent of a high school diploma in Texas; and

- maintained a home in Texas continuously for at least one year before the member was assigned to duty outside of Texas.

The bill would apply beginning with tuition and fees charged for the 2019 fall semester.

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.