

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

S.B. 309
By: Van de Putte et al.
Veteran Affairs & Military Installations
7/2/2007
Enrolled

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

Currently, a student can receive a refund from a university or college when called to active military service. However, career and vocational schools are not required to give a refund to a student called to active military service.

S.B. 309 requires career schools and colleges to refund tuition and fees to a student who withdraws from the institution as a result of being called to active military service. This bill also authorizes the student to choose to take an incomplete and re-enroll at no additional cost within 12 months of finishing military service. This bill authorizes a student to receive an appropriate final grade or credit if an instructor determines that the student has completed a substantial portion of the course.

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 Subchapter C, Chapter 132, Education Code, by adding Section 132.0611, as follows:

Sec. 132.0611. REFUND POLICY FOR STUDENTS CALLED TO ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE. Requires a career school or college to maintain, and include in the school or college's catalogue and enrollment contract, a policy under which a student who withdraws as a result of the student being called to active duty in a military service of the United States or the Texas National Guard is permitted to elect one of several certain options for each course in which the student is enrolled. Sets forth those options.

SECTION 2. Amends Section 132.055(b), Education Code, by adding Subdivision (19), to authorize the approval of the application by the Texas Workforce Commission (commission) of a career school or college if it is found, upon investigation at the premises of the school or college, the school or college maintains a policy regarding students called to active military service that meets the requirements prescribed by Section 132.0611.

SECTION 3. Amends Section 132.201(a), Education Code, to make a conforming change.

SECTION 4. Amends Section 132.2415(b), Education Code, to make a conforming change.

SECTION 5. Provides that Section 132.0611, Education Code, as added by this Act, applies to a career school or college operating under a certificate of approval issued under Chapter 132, Education Code, beginning on the earlier of the following dates: November 1, 2007, or the earliest date on which the certificate of approval is issued or renewed that occurs on or after the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 6. Effective date: September 1, 2007.