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et al.

H.B. No. 3452

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to creation of the Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program.

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

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

SUBCHAPTER R. TEXAS ARMED SERVICES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Sec. 56.501. PROGRAM NAME. The scholarship program authorized by this subchapter is known as the Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program.

Sec. 56.502. ARMED SERVICES SCHOLARSHIPS. (a) Armed services scholarships are annual conditional scholarship grants of \$15,000 available for use at any public or private institution of higher education located in this state having a Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program, conditioned on certain obligations to which the recipient is committed detailed at Section 56.504.

(b) Any amount paid to a student for being under contract with one of the branches of the armed services of the United States shall be deducted from the armed services scholarship.

Sec. 56.503. POWERS OF APPOINTMENT. The governor, the lieutenant governor, the members of the Texas Senate, and the members of the Texas House of Representatives shall each individually have the power annually to appoint two recipients of armed services scholarships who possess the requisite

1 qualifications for the scholarship.

2 Sec. 56.504. QUALIFICATIONS. In order to qualify for an  
3 armed services scholarship, a student must:

4 (1) meet minimum college entrance requirements at a  
5 public or private institution of higher education located in this  
6 state; and

7 (2) attend, meet, and maintain the satisfactory  
8 academic progress requirements of the student's public or private  
9 institution of higher education.

10 Sec. 56.505. COMMITMENTS. In order to fulfill the  
11 student's commitments to the armed services scholarship program, he  
12 or she must:

13 (1) complete four years of ROTC training, and graduate  
14 within five years;

15 (2) upon graduation, enter into either a four-year  
16 commitment to be a member of the Texas State Guard or the Texas Army  
17 or Air Force National Guard, or a contract to serve as a  
18 commissioned officer with any branch of the armed services of the  
19 United States; and

20 (3) meet the physical examination requirements and all  
21 other prescreening requirements of the Texas State Guard, the Texas  
22 Army or Air Force National Guard, or the branch of the armed  
23 services with which the student enters into a contract.

24 Sec. 56.506. CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE TO MEET COMMITMENTS.

25 If at any time a recipient of an armed services scholarship either  
26 fails to maintain satisfactory academic progress, withdraws from  
27 the scholarship program, or fails to fulfill his or her commitment

1 to the Texas State Guard or the Texas Army or Air Force National  
2 Guard or his or her contract with a branch of the armed services of  
3 the United States, for any reason other than a physical inability to  
4 meet any of these commitments, all funds advanced to the recipient  
5 to that point under the armed services scholarship program shall  
6 become a debt due and owing to the State of Texas.

7 Sec. 56.507. FUNDING. (a) The Texas Higher Education  
8 Coordinating Board may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and  
9 donations from any public or private source for the purposes of this  
10 subchapter.

11 (b) The legislature may appropriate money for the purpose of  
12 this subchapter.

13 Sec. 56.508. RULEMAKING AUTHORITY. The Texas Higher  
14 Education Coordinating Board shall have authority to make rules to  
15 implement the purposes of this subchapter.

16 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.