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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 a new Subchapter R to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER R. TEXAS ARMED SERVICES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Section 56.501 PROGRAM NAME

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

Section 56.502 ARMED SERVICES SCHOLARSHIPS

Armed Services Scholarships are annual conditional scholarship grants of \$15,000, available for use at any Texas public institution of higher education having a Reserve Officer Training Corps (R.O.T.C.) program, conditioned on certain obligations to which the recipient is committed detailed at section. 56.504.

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.

Section 56.503 POWERS OF APPOINTMENT

The Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the members of the Texas Senate, and the members of the Texas House of Representative shall each individually have the power annually to appoint two

1 recipients of Armed Services scholarships who possess the requisite
2 qualifications for the scholarship.

3 Section 56.504 QUALIFICATIONS

4 In order to qualify for an Armed Services Scholarship, a
5 student must

6 (1) meet minimum college entrance requirements at a
7 Texas public university; and

8 (2) attend, meet and maintain the satisfactory
9 academic progress requirements of the student's Texas public
10 university.

11 Section 56.505 COMMITMENTS

12 In order to fulfill the student's commitments to the Armed
13 Services Scholarship program, he or she must:

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

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

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

25 Section 56.506 CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE TO MEET COMMITMENTS

26 If at any time, a recipient of an Armed Services Scholarship
27 either fails to maintain satisfactory academic progress, withdraws

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

8 Section 56.507 FUNDING

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

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

14 Section 56.508 RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY

15 The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall have
16 authority to make rules to implement the purposes of this
17 subchapter.

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