

CHAPTER 253

H.B. No. 691

AN ACT

relating to the refund of tuition and fees for courses dropped by students at public institutions of higher education.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 54.006, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a), (b), and (c) and adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:

(a) A general academic teaching institution or medical and dental unit, *as soon as practicable*, shall refund the amount of ~~[applicable tuition and]~~ fees and tuition in excess of the minimum tuition collected for courses from which students drop within the first 12 days of a fall or spring semester or within the first four days of a summer term. *The institution or medical and dental unit may not delay a refund under this subsection on the grounds that the student may withdraw from the institution or unit later in the semester or term, provided the student remains enrolled at the institution for that semester or term. Refunds for courses dropped by a student who later in the semester or term withdraws from the institution are calculated according to the percentage schedules in Subsections (b) or (c) of this Act.* An institution may assess a nonrefundable \$15 matriculation fee if the student withdraws from the institution before the first day of classes.

(b) A general academic teaching institution or medical and dental unit shall refund ~~[a percentage of collected tuition and mandatory fees]~~ to a student ~~[students]~~ withdrawing from the institution or unit an amount equal to the product of the amount of tuition and mandatory fees collected for each course in which the student is enrolled on the date the student withdraws multiplied by the applicable percentage derived from the following tables:

~~(1) if the student withdraws during a fall or spring semester or comparable trimester [if such are in effect according to the following withdrawal schedule and subject to the provisions of Subsection (a) of this section]:~~

(A) [(1)]	prior to the first class day	100 percent
(B) [(2)]	during the first five class days	80 percent
(C) [(3)]	during the second five class days	70 percent
(D) [(4)]	during the third five class days	50 percent
(E) [(5)]	during the fourth five class days	25 percent
(F) [(6)]	after the fourth five class days	None; and

~~(2) if the student withdraws [Separate withdrawal refund schedules may be established for optional fees such as intercollegiate athletics, cultural entertainment, parking, and yearbooks.~~

~~[(c) A general academic teaching institution or medical and dental unit shall refund a percentage of collected tuition and mandatory fees to students withdrawing from the institution] during a summer term [according to the following withdrawal schedule and subject to the provisions of Subsection (a) of this section]:~~

(A) [(1)]	prior to the first class day	100 percent
(B) [(2)]	during the first, second, or third class day	80 percent
(C) [(3)]	during the fourth, fifth, or sixth class day	50 percent
(D) [(4)]	seventh day of class and thereafter	None.

(c) Separate withdrawal refund schedules may be established for optional fees such as intercollegiate athletics, cultural entertainment, parking, and yearbooks.

(g) A general academic teaching institution or medical and dental unit may not collect any amount of fees or tuition in excess of the minimum tuition for a course at the institution or unit from a student who is entitled to a refund of that amount under this section if the student has not paid that amount on the date the student drops the course or withdraws from the institution or unit.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately, and applies only to the refund or collection of tuition and fees that become due beginning with the fall semester in 1993. The refund or collection of tuition and fees that became due before that semester is governed by the law in effect at the time the tuition and fees became due, and that law is continued in effect for this purpose only.

SECTION 3. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed by the House on April 15, 1993, by a non-record vote; passed by the Senate on May 12, 1993: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved May 23, 1993.

Effective Aug. 30, 1993, 90 days after date of adjournment.