



The Texas Senate

FILE # RG-CC578-DM  
ML-21463-93

*Manly*  
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FINANCE COMMITTEE

JOHN T. MONTFORD  
MEMBER, TEXAS SENATE  
TWENTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT

I.D.# 21463

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EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
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July 22, 1993

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The Honorable Dan Morales  
Attorney General  
State of Texas  
209 West 14th Street  
Austin, Texas 78711

JUL 23 1993

**RD-578**

Dear General Morales:

House Bill 1356, passed by the 73rd Legislature, Regular Session (1993), added a financial need criterion to Section 54.203, Texas Education Code -- commonly known as the Hazelwood Act. The major provisions of Section 54.203 have been in effect for more than fifty years.

Depending on its interpretation, implementation of the financial need requirements of House Bill 1356 may unnecessarily and unintentionally cause extreme hardships for thousands of Texas citizens who are veterans of United States military services. Both the author of the bill and the author of the amendment that added the financial needs test have called into question the proper interpretation of that requirement.

Because of the uncertainty that has arisen over the scope and nature of the requirements of the financial needs test, we hereby request that you review the pertinent provisions of H.B. 1356 and render an opinion regarding the authority of the Coordinating Board to implement the financial needs requirement of Sec. 54.203 in a manner that complies with the intent of the Legislature on this matter.

Your assistance in this matter will be appreciated.

Yours very truly,

*John Montford*  
by BL  
SEN. JOHN T. MONTFORD

*Peggy Rosson*  
SEN. PEGGY ROSSON

JTM/PR/bl

