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March 7, 2003

Opinion Committee Office of the Attorney General 209 W. 14th St. Austin, Texas 78701 FILE # ML-43019-05 1.D. # 43019

This letter requests an Attorney General's Opinion to the following two questions regarding the Texas State Board of Barber Examiners' Barber School Tuition Protection Account (<u>Texas Occupations Code</u>, 1601.3571):

- 1. Are students that receive federal money (e.g., from the U.S. Department of Education) for their barber school tuition (as opposed to students who pay their own tuition) eligible under the Barber School Tuition Protection Account?
- 2. Under what circumstances may the Barber School Tuition Protection Account be used now to protect eligible students? The Barber Board does not have appropriation authority to disburse funds from the account.

Note: The account has been fully-funded (\$25,000) by the barber schools. The Barber Board has requested appropriation authority for the 2004 - 2005 biennium through its legislative appropriations request.

Please contact either Glenn Parker (Chief Fiscal Officer) or me if you have questions/concerns.

Thank you.

Douglas A. Beran, Ph.D. Executive Director

Cc: William H. Kuykendall, J.D.,

Chair

Joseph Pitner

Assistant Attorney General