

BILL ANALYSIS

H.B. 1537
By: Dukes
Higher Education
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

House Bill 1537 was created in order to honor two Texas heroes, Barbara Jordan and Cesar Chavez, by erecting statues in their images on the University of Texas at Austin campus, and to establish student scholarships in their names.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

HB 1537 amends Subchapter E, Chapter 54, Education Code, by adding Section 54.5135 to authorize the board of regents of The University of Texas System to charge and collect from students at the University of Texas at Austin a \$2 fee for any semester or summer session. The bill provides that the fee is to be used for the construction of the Barbara Jordan statue and the Cesar Chavez statue to be located on the University of Texas at Austin campus, and for the establishment of Barbara Jordan and Cesar Chavez student scholarships. The bill provides that the fee may not be charged after August 31, 2007, and that the change in law made by this Act applies beginning with the fees due for the 2003 fall semester.

HB 1537 provides that the board shall deposit one-half of the revenue generated from the fee into an account for the construction of the Barbara Jordan statue, and that any excess funds are to be used to establish the Barbara Jordan student scholarship. The bill provides that the board shall deposit the other half of the revenue generated from the fee into an account for the construction of the Cesar Chavez statue, and that any excess funds are to be used to establish the Cesar Chavez student scholarship.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2003.