

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

H.B. 2379  
By: Hill  
Higher Education  
Committee Report (Unamended)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

Currently, the statutory authority of The University of Texas at Dallas' (UTD) recreation fee is maxed-out at \$40 for each student for a semester of the regular term or a 12-week summer session and \$26.67 for each student for an eight-week summer session. Due to a major increase in utility costs and additional staffing needs based on usage and security demands, the current fee structure does not support the cost of operating the Activities Center nor does it support a greatly needed expansion of the facility. The student senate at UTD voted to hold an election to authorize the board of regents of The University of Texas System to levy a mandatory recreation fee, not to exceed \$65 for each student for a semester of the regular term or a 12-week or longer summer session, and \$43.33 for each student for a summer session of less than 12 weeks. The UTD student body voted to approve the measure. HB 2379 authorizes the board of regents of The University of Texas System to impose the fee.

### **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 2379 amends Sections 54.544(b) and (c), Education Code, to increase the maximum amount that can be charged for the recreational facility fee at the University of Texas at Dallas to \$65, rather than \$40 for each student for a semester of the regular term or a summer session of 12 weeks or longer. The bill provides that the recreational facility fee may not exceed \$43.33, rather than \$26.67 for each student for a summer session of less than 12 weeks, rather than an eight-week summer session.

HB 2379 provides an alternative method by which the recreational facility fee may be increased by more than 10 percent, which is by a majority vote of the legislative body of the student government of the institution.

HB 2379 provides that the change in law made by this Act applies only to fees imposed for a semester or term that begins on or after the effective date of this Act.

### **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.