

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

H.B. 2457  
By: Rangel  
Higher Education  
Committee Report (Unamended)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

During the 2002 fall semester, the Student Government Association at the Texas A&M University-Kingsville requested that the university consider the implementation of an intercollegiate athletics fee to assist in the operation, development and maintenance of the school's athletic program. During the 2002 spring semester, the intercollegiate athletic fee was approved by a majority of the students voting in a general student election. The election produced a record turnout, with 706 of the 6,359 students voting, a turnout of 11% of the total student body population. The vote returns showed the 74 percent of those students voting favored the implementation of the fee. To demonstrate the diverse support for the fee, a statistical analysis of those students voting produced the following:

#### **Class Analysis**

Seniors - 20%  
Juniors - 21%  
Sophomores - 21%  
Freshmen - 29%

#### **Ethnic Analysis**

Hispanic - 58%  
Anglo - 25%  
African American - 9%

HB 2457 will authorize the board of regents of The Texas A&M University System to impose an intercollegiate athletics fee on each student enrolled at Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

### **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 2457 amends Subchapter E, Chapter 54, Education Code, by adding Section 54.5392 to authorize the board of regents of The Texas A&M University System to impose an intercollegiate athletics fee on each student enrolled at Texas A&M University-Kingsville. The bill provides that the fee may not be imposed unless approved by a majority vote of the students participating in a general student election held at the university for that purpose, and that the amount of the fee may not exceed \$12 per semester credit hour for each semester or summer session, unless the amount is increased as provided by Subsection (c). The bill provides that the fee may be used to develop and maintain an intercollegiate athletics program at the university.

HB 2457 provides that the amount of the fee per semester credit hour may be increased from one academic year to the next only if approved by a majority vote of the students participating in a general student election held for that purpose or, if the amount of the increase does not exceed five percent, by a majority vote of the legislative body of the student government of the university.

HB 2457 provides that a student enrolled in more than 13 semester credit hours shall pay the fee in an amount equal to the amount imposed on a student enrolled in 13 semester credit hours during the same semester or session.

HB 2457 provides that a fee imposed under this section is in addition to any other fee authorized by law and may not be considered in determining the maximum amount of student services fees that may be imposed under Section 54.503(b).

HB 2457 provides that if the imposition the fee as described by this Act was approved by a majority vote of the students of the university participating in a general student election held on or after January 1, 2002, the board of regents may impose the fee as prescribed by the results of the election without calling an additional election. The bill provides that subsection (g) expires January 1, 2005.

**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.