

By: Wentworth

S.B. No. 1230

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

relating to authorizing an environmental service fee at Southwest Texas State University.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 54, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 54.5111 to read as follows:

Sec. 54.5111. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE FEE; SOUTHWEST TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY. (a) The board of regents of the Texas State University System may charge each student enrolled at Southwest Texas State University an environmental service fee in an initial amount not to exceed \$1 per semester of the regular term or term of the summer session. The fee may not be imposed unless approved by a majority vote of the students at the university voting in an election held for that purpose at the same time and using the same ballot as a student government election.

(b) Not more than once in an academic year, the board of regents may increase the amount of the fee authorized by this section to cover increased operating costs of environmental services funded from revenue from the fee. The board may not increase the amount of the fee unless the increase is approved by a majority vote of the students at the university voting in an election held for that purpose in which at least 1,000 students at the university cast ballots and that is held at the same time and using the same ballot as a student government election. The total

1 amount of the increased fee may not exceed:

2 (1) \$6 per student for each regular semester or for  
3 each term of the summer session not covered by Subdivision (2); or

4 (2) \$3 per student for each six-week or shorter term of  
5 the summer session.

6 (c) A fee imposed under this section may be used only to  
7 provide environmental improvements at the university through  
8 services such as recycling, transportation, employment, product  
9 purchasing, matching funds for grants, planning and maintenance,  
10 and irrigation.

11 (d) The university may not use revenue from the fee imposed  
12 under this section to reduce or replace other money allocated by the  
13 university for environmental projects.

14 (e) The university shall retain any fee revenue that exceeds  
15 the amount necessary to cover current operating expenses for  
16 environmental services and any interest generated from that  
17 revenue. The university may use the excess revenue and interest  
18 generated from that revenue only for the purposes provided by  
19 Subsection (c).

20 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2003 fall  
21 semester.

22 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
23 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
24 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
25 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
26 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.