

By: Duncan

S.B. No. 1367

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to student union fees at component institutions of the Texas Tech University System.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 54, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 54.5241 to read as follows:

Sec. 54.5241. STUDENT UNION FEES; TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM. (a) The board of regents of the Texas Tech University System may impose a fee in a fixed amount on each student enrolled in a component institution of the Texas Tech University System for the purpose of providing revenue for financing, operating, maintaining, improving, and equipping student union facilities or for acquiring or constructing additions to those facilities.

(b) The board of regents may change the amount of the fee imposed at an institution as necessary to provide sufficient funds for the student union but may not increase the amount of the fee from one academic year to the next by more than 10 percent unless the amount of the increase is approved by:

(1) a majority of the students of the institution voting in a general student election held for that purpose; or

(2) a majority vote of the legislative body of the student government of the institution.

(c) The board of regents may prorate the amount of the fee imposed at an institution based on the length of the semester or

1 term for which a student enrolls.

2 (d) The fiscal officer of each institution shall collect the
3 fees imposed under this section at the institution and shall credit
4 the money received from the fees to an account known as the student
5 union account. The money in the account may be used only for the
6 purposes provided by Subsection (a) and shall be placed under the
7 control of and subject to the order of the advisory board of the
8 institution's student union. The advisory board shall annually
9 submit a complete and itemized budget accompanied by a full and
10 complete report of all activities conducted during the year and all
11 expenditures made in connection with those activities. The board
12 of regents shall make the changes in the budget as the board of
13 regents considers necessary before approving the budget and shall
14 impose the fees in an amount sufficient to meet the budgetary needs
15 of the student union, subject to Subsection (b).

16 (e) The board of regents may pledge the fees imposed under
17 this section to pay obligations issued for authorized purposes
18 pursuant to the revenue financing system of the Texas Tech
19 University System.

20 (f) Student union fees imposed under this section are in
21 addition to any other fee the board of regents is authorized by law
22 to impose and may not be considered in determining the maximum
23 student services fee that may be imposed under Section 54.503(b).

24 SECTION 2. Section 54.524, Education Code, is repealed.

25 SECTION 3. (a) The change in law made by this Act takes
26 effect beginning with the 2004 fall semester.

27 (b) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection,

1 student fees imposed under Section 54.524, Education Code, before
2 the 2004 fall semester are governed by the law in effect when the
3 fees were imposed, and the former law is continued in effect for
4 that purpose. Revenue in the university center account at a
5 component institution of the Texas Tech University System at the
6 beginning of the 2004 fall semester shall be transferred to the
7 credit of the student union account established at the institution
8 under Section 54.5241, Education Code, as added by this Act.

9 (c) For purposes of determining the amount of a fee that may
10 be imposed at an institution under Section 54.5241, Education Code,
11 as added by this Act, in the 2004 fall semester, the amount of the
12 fee imposed in the 2003-2004 academic year under Section 54.524 at
13 the institution is treated as if that fee were imposed under Section
14 54.5241.

15 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.