

By: Barrientos

S.B. No. 1514

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 Relating to the creation of an academic and research infrastructure
3 fee at the University of Texas at Austin.

4 SECTION 1. Chapter 54, Education Code, is amended by adding
5 Section 51.5135, to read as follows:

6 Sec. 51.5135. ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE FEE; THE
7 UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN. (a) The board of regents of The
8 University of Texas System may charge each student enrolled at The
9 University of Texas at Austin an academic and research
10 infrastructure fee not to exceed \$40 per semester credit hour to
11 finance, construct, renovate, improve, equip, or maintain academic
12 or research facilities or to operate academic or research programs
13 at the university.

14 (b) The fee described in subsection (a) may not be imposed
15 unless the board of regents determines that it is necessary to
16 maintain academic and research excellence at the university or to
17 insure that the academic and research programs at the university
18 remain competitive with peer institutions or programs across the
19 nation.

20 (c) A fee charged under this section may not be considered
21 in determining the maximum amount of student services fees that may
22 be charged a student enrolled at the institution under Section
23 54.513.

24 (d) Funds collected under this section are institutional

1 funds as that term is defined by Section 51.009 and shall be
2 accounted for in that manner.

3 (e) The board of regents may pledge revenue from a fee
4 imposed under this section to pay an obligation issued under the
5 revenue financing system of the University of Texas System.

6 (f) If the board of regent charges a fee under this section,
7 the board is not required to set a uniform fee for all students
8 enrolled at the university but may set differential charges to such
9 students and in such a manner as the board deems to be in the best
10 interest of the university.

11 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, this
12 Act applies beginning with the fall semester, 2003.

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