

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

S.B. 1417
By: Hinojosa
Education
7/9/2007
Enrolled

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

The student government of Texas A&M University--Corpus Christi, as was demonstrated by an initiative proposed by that body during the 2005-2006 academic year, would like to establish a student endowment scholarship and internship program, funded by an additional student fee, in order to fund scholarships and student internships. However, the board of regents (board) of the university does not have the necessary statutory authority to charge such a fee.

S.B. 1417 authorizes the board to charge a student endowment fund fee of not more than \$1 per semester credit hour for the purpose of creating a student endowment fund at the university, and sets forth the specifics related to the imposition of the fee, any increases in the fee, and other related items.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Subchapter E, Chapter 54, Education Code, by adding Section 54.5395, as follows:

Sec. 54.5395. STUDENT ENDOWMENT FUND FEE; TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY--CORPUS CHRISTI. (a) Authorizes the board of regents (board) of The Texas A&M University System to impose a student endowment fund fee on each student enrolled at Texas A&M University--Corpus Christi (A&M--Corpus Christi). Prohibits the fee from being imposed unless approved by a majority vote of A&M--Corpus Christi students participating in a general student election at the university under Section 56.243 (Election to Participate).

(b) Prohibits the fee amount from exceeding \$1 per semester for each regular semester or summer session, unless increased as provided by Subsection (c).

(c) Prohibits the fee amount from being increased by more than 10 percent unless approved by a majority vote of enrolled students participating in a general student election called for that purpose.

(d) Requires a fee imposed under this section to be used to establish a student endowment fund under Section 56.247 (Student Endowment Fund).

(e) Provides that a fee imposed under this section is in addition to any other fee authorized by law and prohibits the fee from being considered in determining the maximum amount of student services fees that authorized to be imposed under Section 54.503(b) (\$250 maximum per semester).

SECTION 2. Amends Section 56.243, Education Code, to authorize a general academic teaching institution to elect to participate in the Student Endowment Scholarship and Internship Program at any time, rather than before September 1, 2004.

SECTION 3. Amends Section 56.246, Education Code, to delete text prohibiting the amount of student endowment scholarship funding for an internship from exceeding \$500 per semester or summer session during the five year period in which the institution is authorized to receive matching state funds. Makes conforming changes.

SECTION 4. Amends Sections 56.247(a) and (c), Education Code, to make conforming changes.

SECTION 5. Provides that this Act applies beginning with the 2007 fall semester.

SECTION 6. Effective date: September 1, 2007.