

BILL ANALYSIS

S.B. 847
By: Averitt
Defense & Veterans' Affairs
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Current law provides community colleges the ability to issue a fee to students for high cost programs, including students under the Hinson-Hazelwood College Student Loan Program. When the law was enacted, however, Texas technical colleges were not included.

SB 847 authorizes a fee for extraordinary costs associated with a specific program or course and provides that exemptions for Hinson-Hazlewood students do not apply to this fee.

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

SB 847 amends the Education Code to authorize the governing board of a public junior college, public technical institute, or public state college, rather than a junior college district, to establish a fee for extraordinary costs associated with a specific course or program. The bill authorizes such a governing board to provide that the exemptions for certain veterans and the children of certain members of the armed forces of the United States and the Texas National Guard and the Texas Air National Guard do not apply to this fee. The bill makes its provisions applicable beginning with fees charged for the 2009 fall semester.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Upon passage, or, if the Act does not receive the necessary vote, the Act takes effect September 1, 2009.