

By: Coleman

H.B. No. 4079

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to student fees at the University of Houston 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 54.503 to read as follows:

Sec. 54.503. STUDENT SERVICES FEES. (a) For the purposes of this section:

(1) "Student services" means activities which are separate and apart from the regularly scheduled academic functions of the institution and directly involve or benefit students, including textbook rentals, recreational activities, health and hospital services, medical services, intramural and intercollegiate athletics, artists and lecture series, cultural entertainment series, debating and oratorical activities, student publications, student government, the student fee advisory committee, student transportation services other than services under Sections 54.504, 54.511, 54.512, and 54.513 of this code, and any other student activities and services specifically authorized and approved by the governing board of the institution of higher education. The term does not include services for which a fee is charged under another section of this code.

(2) "Compulsory fee" means a fee that is charged to all students enrolled at the institution.

(3) "Voluntary fee" means a fee that is charged only to

1 those students who make use of the student service for which the fee
2 is established.

3 (b) The governing board of an institution of higher
4 education may charge and collect from students registered at the
5 institution fees to cover the cost of student services. The fee or
6 fees may be either voluntary or compulsory as determined by the
7 governing board. The total of all compulsory student services fees
8 collected from a student at an institution of higher education
9 other than The University of Texas at Austin or a component
10 institution of the University of Houston System for any one
11 semester or summer session shall not exceed \$250. All compulsory
12 student services fees charged and collected under this section by
13 the governing board of an institution of higher education, other
14 than a public junior college, shall be assessed in proportion to the
15 number of semester credit hours for which a student registers. No
16 portion of the compulsory fees collected may be expended for
17 parking facilities or services, except as related to providing
18 shuttle bus services.

19 (c) The provisions of this section do not affect the
20 building use fees or other special fees authorized by the
21 legislature for any institution for the purpose of financing
22 revenue bond issues.

23 (d) All money collected as student services fees shall be
24 reserved and accounted for in an account or accounts kept separate
25 and apart from educational and general funds of the institution and
26 shall be used only for the support of student services. All the
27 money shall be placed in a depository bank or banks designated by

1 the governing board and shall be secured as required by law. Each
2 year the governing board shall approve for the institution a
3 separate budget for student activities and services financed by
4 fees authorized in this section. The budget shall show the fees to
5 be assessed, the purpose or functions to be financed, the estimated
6 income to be derived, and the proposed expenditures to be made.
7 Copies of the budgets shall be filed annually with the coordinating
8 board, the governor, the legislative budget board, and the state
9 library.

10 (e) Repealed by Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 359, Sec.
11 16(2), eff. January 1, 2012.

12 (f) If the total compulsory fee charged under this section
13 is more than \$150, the increase does not take effect unless the
14 increase is approved by a majority vote of the students voting in an
15 election held for that purpose or by a majority vote of the student
16 government at the institution. In subsequent years, an election
17 authorizing a fee increase must be held before the fee can be
18 increased by more than 10 percent of the fee approved at the last
19 student election.

20 (g) If a student registers at more than one institution of
21 higher education within a college or university system under
22 concurrent enrollment provisions of joint or cooperative programs
23 between institutions, the student shall pay all compulsory student
24 services fees to the institution designated as the home institution
25 under the joint or cooperative program. The governing board of the
26 college or university system may waive the payment of all
27 compulsory student services fees at the other institution or

1 institutions.

2 (h) Except for Subsection (g) of this section, this section
3 does not apply to The University of Texas at Austin or a component
4 institution of the University of Houston System.

5 (i) General revenue appropriations, other educational and
6 general income, and funds appropriated under Article VII, Section
7 17 or 18, of the Texas Constitution may be expended on a
8 proportional use basis to support the services, activities, and
9 facilities provided for in this section to the extent that the use
10 of such funds is not otherwise restricted by the Texas Constitution
11 or general law.

12 (j) Student fees at the University of Houston System shall
13 be used for their intended purposes.

14 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.