

1-1 By: West S.B. No. 1655
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 13, 2015; March 23, 2015, read
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Higher Education;
 1-4 April 22, 2015, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 6,
 1-5 Nays 0; April 22, 2015, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8			X	
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			

1-15 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-16 AN ACT

1-17 relating to Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board fees for the
 1-18 administration of certificates of authorization and certificates
 1-19 of authority issued to certain postsecondary educational
 1-20 institutions; authorizing fees.

1-21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-22 SECTION 1. Section 61.303, Education Code, is amended by
 1-23 adding Subsections (g) and (h) to read as follows:

1-24 (g) The board by rule may establish a fee to be charged by
 1-25 the board to cover all or a portion of the board's costs associated
 1-26 with:

1-27 (1) issuing, maintaining, or revising a certificate of
 1-28 authorization or certificate of authority; and

1-29 (2) maintaining a repository for student transcripts
 1-30 from closed institutions that were authorized to operate under a
 1-31 certificate of authorization or certificate of authority.

1-32 (h) The amount of a fee established under Subsection (g) may
 1-33 not exceed the following:

1-34 (1) \$1,500 for an initial approval;

1-35 (2) \$750 for an annual review;

1-36 (3) \$250 for an institution name change;

1-37 (4) \$250 for a degree, program, or credential-level
 1-38 change;

1-39 (5) \$250 for a new degree, program, or credential
 1-40 level;

1-41 (6) \$500 for an accrediting agency change; or

1-42 (7) \$500 for an ownership or governance change.

1-43 SECTION 2. Section 61.315, Education Code, is amended to
 1-44 read as follows:

1-45 Sec. 61.315. AGENTS AND RECORDS; TRANSCRIPT REPOSITORY AND
 1-46 RELATED FEES. (a) The authorized or certified institutions may be
 1-47 required to furnish a list of their agents to the board, and to
 1-48 maintain records of students enrolled, credits awarded, and degrees
 1-49 awarded in a manner specified by the board.

1-50 (b) The board shall maintain a repository for student
 1-51 transcripts from closed institutions that were authorized to
 1-52 operate under a certificate of authorization or certificate of
 1-53 authority using fees received by the board from institutions
 1-54 operating under those certificates as part of the institutions'
 1-55 initial and ongoing authorization to operate. If those fees are not
 1-56 sufficient to cover the cost of maintaining the repository, the
 1-57 board may discontinue its maintenance of the repository, unless
 1-58 adequate state funding is provided for that maintenance. The board
 1-59 may charge a fee to students requesting transcript copies
 1-60 maintained in the repository, not to exceed the cost of retrieving,
 1-61 reproducing, and sending the transcript copies. A closed or

2-1 closing institution shall provide its student transcript records to
2-2 the board in the format specified by the board for inclusion in the
2-3 repository.

2-4 SECTION 3. Subchapter H, Chapter 61, Education Code, is
2-5 amended by adding Section 61.4031 to read as follows:

2-6 Sec. 61.4031. CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORIZATION OR AUTHORITY
2-7 FEE. (a) The board by rule may establish a fee to be charged by the
2-8 board to cover all or a portion of the board's costs associated
2-9 with:

2-10 (1) issuing, maintaining, or revising a certificate of
2-11 authorization or certificate of authority issued under a rule
2-12 adopted under this subchapter; and

2-13 (2) maintaining a repository for student transcripts
2-14 from closed institutions that were authorized to operate under a
2-15 certificate of authorization or certificate of authority issued
2-16 under a rule adopted under this subchapter.

2-17 (b) The amount of a fee established under this section may
2-18 not exceed the following:

2-19 (1) \$1,500 for an initial approval;

2-20 (2) \$750 for an annual review;

2-21 (3) \$250 for an institution name change;

2-22 (4) \$250 for a degree, program, or credential-level
2-23 change;

2-24 (5) \$250 for a new degree, program, or credential
2-25 level;

2-26 (6) \$500 for an accrediting agency change; or

2-27 (7) \$500 for an ownership or governance change.

2-28 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-29 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-30 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-31 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-32 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

2-33 * * * * *