

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 84TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 14, 2015

TO: Honorable Kel Seliger, Chair, Senate Committee on Higher Education

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: **SB255** by Ellis (Relating to a limitation on the amount of tuition charged by public institutions of higher education.), **As Introduced**

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill relates to limitations on designated tuition and fees charged by public institutions of higher education. The bill would limit designated tuition increases at all public institutions of higher education in the state, including general academic institutions, health related institutions, technical colleges, public state colleges, and community colleges, beginning in the 2016-17 academic year (fiscal year 2017) to the total amount of tuition charged to a similarly situated student for the 2015-16 academic year (fiscal year 2016).

Designated tuition and fees within Subchapter E of the Texas Education Code, Chapter 54, except for laboratory fees, student teaching fees, and special course fees, are classified as institutional funds; therefore, there would be no impact to the State. Laboratory fees, student teaching fees, and special course fees under Subchapter E of the Texas Education Code, Chapter 54, are accounted for as educational and general income, or statutory tuition, in the General Appropriations Act. It is assumed that the provisions of the bill would not have a significant effect on this income.

Based on information provided by institutions of higher education, several institutions indicated that the bill would not impact designated tuition rates, as they are not planning increases in designated tuition rates in the foreseeable future, but other institutions indicated the bill would result in a loss in tuition revenue, which could reach a significant amount.

Administrative duties associated with the bill would be implemented within current resources.

Local Government Impact

No fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 710 Texas A&M University System Administrative and General Offices, 720 The University of Texas System Administration, 758 Texas State University System, 768 Texas Tech University System Administration, 781 Higher Education Coordinating Board, 783 University of Houston System Administration, 769 University of North Texas System Administration

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