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By:  West S.B. No. 1678

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an intercollegiate athletics fee at the University of North Texas at Dallas.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1.  Subchapter E, Chapter 54, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 54.5192 to read as follows:

Sec. 54.5192.  INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS FEE; UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AT DALLAS. (a) The board of regents of the University of North Texas System may charge each student enrolled at the University of North Texas at Dallas an intercollegiate athletics fee in an initial amount not to exceed $10 per semester credit hour for each semester or summer session. The amount of the fee may be increased only as provided by Subsection (e).

(b)  A student enrolled in more than 12 semester credit hours shall pay the fee in an amount equal to the amount charged a student enrolled in 12 semester credit hours during the same semester or session.

(c)  Revenue from the fee charged under this section may be used only for financing, constructing, operating, maintaining, or improving an athletic facility or for operating an intercollegiate athletics program at the university.

(d)  The fee may not be charged unless approved by a majority vote of the students enrolled at the university who participate in a general student election held for that purpose. The ballot for the election to approve the fee must state a maximum amount of the fee that may be charged per semester credit hour, not to exceed the maximum amount prescribed by Subsection (a).

(e)  The amount of the fee per semester credit hour may be increased from one academic year to the next only if approved by a majority vote of the students participating in a general student election held for that purpose or, if the amount of the increase does not exceed five percent, by a majority vote of the legislative body of the student government of the university.

(f)  The chief fiscal officer of the university shall collect the fee and shall deposit the revenue from the fee in an account to be known as the intercollegiate athletics fee account.

(g)  A fee charged under this section is in addition to any other fee authorized by law and may not be considered in determining the maximum amount of student services fees that may be charged each student enrolled at the university under Section 54.503.

SECTION 2.  A fee may not be charged under Section 54.5192, Education Code, as added by this Act, before the 2020 fall semester.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.