

SUBJECT: Fee for Martin Luther King Jr. statue fee at University of Texas

COMMITTEE: Higher Education — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 6 ayes — Rangel, Goolsby, Harris, Kamel, Moreno, Reyna
0 nays
3 absent — Ogden, Gallego, Rodriguez

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, April 6 — 30-0

WITNESSES: None

DIGEST: CSSB 1320 would authorize The University of Texas System Board of Regents to charge and collect a \$1 fee per semester or summer session from students at The University of Texas at Austin to fund the construction of a Martin Luther King Jr. statue on the UT campus and to establish Martin Luther King Jr. student scholarships.

The fee would be levied beginning in the fall of 1995 and would expire on August 31, 1999, or when sufficient funds for the statue have been collected, whichever occurs first. The fees would be deposited into the Martin Luther King Jr. statue fee account.

SUPPORTERS SAY: For nearly a decade, students at The University of Texas have been working for the establishment of a Martin Luther King Jr. statue on the UT campus. CSSB 1320 would allow the statue to be built using a small fee to paid by the students. In March 1995 over 60 percent of students who participated in a student referendum approved using a \$1 student fee to fund the statue. The board of regents approved a five-year fundraising project for the statue in 1990, but no funds have been collected to date.

OPPONENTS SAY: No apparent opposition.

NOTES:

The committee substitute deleted from the Senate version a reference requiring funds raised that are in excess of the cost of the statue construction to be used to establish Martin Luther King Jr. student scholarships and added a provision requiring the collection of fees to expire when sufficient funds have been collected.