

SUBJECT: Texas A&M pilot program for reduced summer term undergraduate tuition

COMMITTEE: Higher Education — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — Morrison, Goolsby, F. Brown, Dawson, Giddings, Harper-Brown, J. Jones, Rose

0 nays

1 absent — Gallego

WITNESSES: For — None

Against — None

On — Bill Perry, Texas A&M University

BACKGROUND: Education Code, ch. 54, subch. B, establishes tuition rates for general academic institutions, medical and dental units, and public junior colleges.

DIGEST: HB 20 would establish a special summer tuition rate at Texas A&M University, which would apply only to a resident undergraduate student enrolled for a summer term or session at Texas A&M. Statutory tuition charged to a student would be one-half of the amount otherwise allowed by current law. The amount of the designated tuition a board of regents could charge to a student could not exceed the amount the board was authorized to charge under the bill.

The special summer tuition rate would apply only if the Legislature appropriated money to Texas A&M for the fiscal 2006-07 to cover revenue lost as a result of offering the reduced tuition.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2005. It would apply only to a summer term or session in 2006 or 2007 and would expire January 1, 2008.

NOTES: According to the fiscal note, the bill would cost the state \$12.5 million in general revenue-related funds through fiscal 2006-07.