

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
76R8362 JSA-F

H.B. 2181  
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Education  
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Engrossed

### **DIGEST**

Major universities across the country have recently built or plan to build comprehensive recreation and wellness centers. Where such centers were once simply places for intramural sports, they now offer facilities designed for the entire student body, including food service areas and multi-purpose meeting rooms. This bill would authorize the board of regents of the University of Houston System (board) to impose a recreational and wellness facility fee on students enrolled at the university to finance, construct, operate, maintain, and improve student wellness and recreational facilities, while prohibiting the fee from being imposed in certain cases. It also authorizes the board to increase the fee, but not for more than 10 percent from one academic year to the next unless approved by a majority vote in a student election, and requires the board to deposit revenue from the fee in a special account.

### **PURPOSE**

As proposed, H.B. 2181 authorizes the board of regents of the University of Houston System (board) to impose a recreational and wellness facility fee on students enrolled at the university to finance, construct, operate, maintain, and improve student wellness and recreational facilities, while prohibiting the fee from being imposed in certain cases. It also authorizes the board to increase the fee, but not more than 10 percent from one academic year to the next unless approved by a majority vote in a student election, and requires the board to deposit revenue from the fee in a special account.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 54E, Education Code, by adding Section 54.528, as follows:

Sec. 54.528. RECREATIONAL FACILITY FEE; THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON. Authorizes the board of regents (board) of the University of Houston System (university) to charge each student enrolled at the university a recreational and wellness facility fee to finance, construct, operate, maintain, or improve student wellness and recreational facilities at the university. Prohibits the initial amount of this fee from exceeding \$75 for each regular term semester or summer semester. Authorizes the board to prorate the fee for a summer session. Prohibits the fee from being imposed unless approved by a majority vote of students participating in a general student election called for that purpose. Prohibits the fee from being imposed in a semester or session before the first semester or session in which a wellness and recreational facility is available for use. Authorizes the board to increase the fee, but prohibits it from increasing it by more than 10 percent from one academic year to the next unless approved by a majority vote in a student election called for that purpose. Requires the board to deposit the revenue from the fee in an account known as the recreational and wellness facility account. Authorizes the board to pledge revenue from the fee to pay obligations issued under the revenue financing system of the University of Houston System. Prohibits a fee imposed under this section from being considered in determining the maximum amount of student services fees that may be charged under Section 54.503, Education Code. Authorizes the board to permit a person who is not enrolled at the university to use the facility financed with revenue from a fee imposed under this section under certain conditions.

SECTION 2. Makes this Act applicable beginning with the 1999 fall semester.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.  
Effective date: upon passage.