

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
76R8362 JSA-F

S.B. 1716
By: Ellis
Higher Education
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As Filed

DIGEST

Recently, the students of the University of Houston approved a fee to create a recreational and wellness center on campus. This bill would authorize the University of Houston to levy a fee, not to exceed \$75, in order to create a recreational and wellness facility on campus.

PURPOSE

As proposed, S.B. 1716 authorizes the board of regents of the University of Houston System to impose a recreational and wellness facility fee at the University of Houston.

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 of the University of Houston System (board) to charge students enrolled in the University of Houston (UH) a fee not to initially exceed \$75 per semester, to finance, construct, and operate a student wellness and recreational facility (facility). Authorizes the board to prorate the amount of the fee for the summer. Prohibits the fee from being imposed without the approval of a majority vote of the student body, and prohibits the fee from being imposed in a semester before the facility is available for use. Authorizes the board to increase the amount of the fee, and prohibits the board from increasing the fee more than 10 percent between semesters without approval from a majority vote by the student body. 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 pursuant to the revenue financing system of the University of Houston System. Prohibits a fee imposed from being considered in determining the maximum amount of student services fees that may be charged under Section 54.503. Authorizes the board to permit a person not enrolled in UH to use a facility financed with revenue from a fee imposed under this section if certain circumstances exist.

SECTION 2. Provides that this Act applies beginning with the 1999 fall semester.

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