

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

S.B. 1763  
By: Barrientos  
Higher Education  
3/18/1999  
As Filed

### **DIGEST**

Currently, Texas law authorizes the University of Texas System to charge certain fees. S.B. 1763 authorizes the University of Texas System to prorate certain fees and increase the medical service fee at component institutions.

### **PURPOSE**

As proposed, S.B. 1763 regulates fees charged at certain institutions of higher education.

### **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 54, Education Code, by adding Section 54.011, as follows:

Sec. 54.011. **AUTHORITY TO PRORATE FEES.** Provides that a governing board of an institution of higher education will prorate any fee that it is authorized by this chapter to charge a student based on the length of the semester or term for which the student is enrolled.

SECTION 2. Amends Section 54.50891, Education Code, by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (e), to authorize the board of regents (board) of The University of Texas System (system) to charge each student registered at a component institution of the system a medical services fee not to exceed \$70, rather than \$55, for each semester of the regular term. Requires a majority of the medical services fee committee at the University of Texas at Austin to approve the fee increase. Provides that if, in an academic year, the fee charged each student under this section is more than 10 percent higher than the previous year's fee, the increase is not effective unless approved by a majority vote of the students voting in an election held for that purpose or by a majority vote of the duly elected student government. Requires the board to prorate the fee allowed under this section based on the length of semester or term for which the student is enrolled.

SECTION 3. Amends Section 54.536(a), Education Code, to authorize a fee to be used only for financing the renovation improvement, operation, maintenance, or replacement of the student health center building at the university.

SECTION 4. Amends Section 54.537(a), Education Code, to make a conforming change.

SECTION 5. Provides that this Act applies beginning with fees due for the fall semester, 1999.

SECTION 6. Emergency clause.

Effective date: upon passage.