

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
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S.B. 627
By: Staples
Education
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As Filed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

The 75th Legislature authorizes the University of Texas at Tyler to add freshman classes beginning in 1998. As part of building a full four-year university, students have requested the start of an intercollegiate athletic program to support campus life. UT-Tyler seeks to fund intercollegiate athletics by charging a student fee, dedicated to the athletics program, in order to fund the program in a manner that does not shift funds from academic pursuits. Legislation is required to enable UT-Tyler to collect a fee from all students beginning in Fall 2001.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly 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 54.5342, as follows:

Sec. 54.5342. INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS FEE; THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER. (a) Authorizes the board of regents of the University of Texas System (board) to impose an intercollegiate athletics fee on each student enrolled at the University of Texas at Tyler (university). Prohibits the fee from being imposed unless approved by a majority vote of the students participating in a general student election held at the university for that purpose.

(b) Prohibits the amount of the fee from exceeding \$7 per semester credit hour for each semester of summer session unless a greater amount is approved by a majority vote of those students participating in a general student election held at the university for that purpose. Prohibits the fee from exceeding the amount approved at the election.

(c) Requires a student enrolled in more than 15 semester credit hours to pay the fee in an amount equal to the amount imposed on a student enrolled in 15 semester credit hours during that semester or session. Requires a student enrolled in less than six semester credit hours to pay the fee in an amount equal to the amount imposed on a student enrolled in six semester credit hours during that semester or session, notwithstanding the limitation on the amount of the fee per semester credit hour under Subsection (b).

(d) Authorizes a fee imposed under this section to be used to develop and maintain an intercollegiate athletics program at the university.

(e) Prohibits a fee imposed under this section from being considered in determining the maximum amount of student services fees that may be imposed under Section 54.503(b).

(f) Authorizes the board to impose the fee as prescribed by the results of the election

without calling an additional election, if the imposition of a mandatory intercollegiate athletics fee as described by this section was approved by a majority vote of the students of the university participating in a general student election held on or after January 1, 2000. Provides that this subsection expires January 1, 2003.

SECTION 2. Provides that this Act applies beginning with the 2001 fall semester.

SECTION 3. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2001.