

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
78R6542 KEL-D

H.B. 1537
By: Dukes (Barrientos)
Education
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Engrossed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, there are numerous statues representing figures of historical importance on the campus of The University of Texas at Austin. Some feel that the campus environment would be more accommodating and more reflective of current conditions in Texas if the existing statues were joined by ones representing additional figures of historical significance. Recently, the student body of The University of Texas at Austin approved a referendum calling for the creation of \$2 fee per semester, to be used to construct statues of Barbara Jordan and Cesar Chavez and to establish scholarship funds in their names. H.B. 1537 authorizes The University of Texas System board of regents to charge and collect a \$2 per semester fee for those purposes.

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 Subchapter E, Chapter 54, Education Code, by adding Section 54.5135, as follows:

Sec. 54.5135. BARBARA JORDAN AND CESAR CHAVEZ STATUES FEE; THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN. (a) Authorizes the board of regents of The University of Texas System (board) to charge and collect from students registered at The University of Texas at Austin a fee of \$2 for any semester or summer session. Requires the fee to be used for funding the construction of a Barbara Jordan statue and a Cesar Chavez statue on the campus of The University of Texas at Austin and to establish Barbara Jordan and Cesar Chavez student scholarships.

(b) Requires the board to deposit one-half of the revenue collected from the fee into the Barbara Jordan statue fee account for the purposes of constructing the Barbara Jordan statue and, if funds permit, establishing Barbara Jordan student scholarships. Requires any funds deposited in the account in excess of the cost of the construction of the statue to be used to establish the student scholarships.

(c) Requires the board deposit the remaining revenue collected from the fee into the Cesar Chavez statue fee account for the purposes of constructing the Cesar Chavez statue and, if funds permit, establishing Cesar Chavez student scholarships. Requires any funds deposited in the account in excess of the cost of the construction of the statue to be used to establish the student scholarships.

(d) Prohibits a fee from being charged under this section after August 31, 2007.

SECTION 2. Provides that the change in law made by this Act applies beginning with fees due for the 2003 fall semester.

SECTION 3. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2003.