

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
78R4397 KSD-F

S.B. 545
By: Hinojosa
Subcommittee on Higher Education
3/18/2003
As Filed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi levies an \$18.50 student services fee per credit hour per semester or summer session. The student body, in a referendum, approved imposing an athletic fee of not more than \$8 per credit hour per semester or summer session dedicated to intercollegiate athletics. The existing student services fee will drop to \$10.50, keeping the total fee at \$18.50 per credit hour per semester or summer session. As proposed, S.B. 545 authorizes The Texas A&M University System to impose an intercollegiate athletics fee on each student enrolled at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, not to exceed \$8 per semester credit hour per semester, that may increase up to five percent yearly if approved by the student body.

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 54.5391, as follows:

Sec. 54.5391. INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS FEE; TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY--CORPUS CHRISTI. (a) Authorizes the board of regents of The Texas A&M University System to impose an intercollegiate athletics fee on each student enrolled at Texas A&M University--Corpus Christi. Prohibits imposition of the fee unless approved by a majority vote of students.

(b) Prohibits the fee from exceeding \$8 per semester credit hour per semester or summer session, unless the amount is increased as provided by Subsection (c).

(c) Authorizes a yearly increase in the fee per semester credit hour if approved by a majority vote of students, or by a majority vote of the legislative body of the student government if the increase does not exceed five percent.

(d) Provides that a student enrolled in more than 13 semester credit hours will pay the same amount as a student enrolled in 13 semester credit hours.

(e) Authorizes the fee to be used to develop and maintain an intercollegiate athletics program.

(f) Prohibits the fee from being factored into determining the maximum amount of student services fees to be imposed under Section 54.503(b).

(g) Authorizes the board of regents to impose the mandatory fee, if approved in an election on or after January 1, 2002, without calling an additional election. Provides that this subsection expires January 1, 2005.

SECTION 2. Provides that this Act applies beginning with the 2003 fall semester.

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