

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
76R12515 KEL-D

H.B. 1932
By: Maxey (Barrientos)
Higher Education
5/7/1999
Engrossed

DIGEST

Currently, the student union fee at the University of Texas at Austin is insufficient to meet the operation and maintenance needs of the facility. H.B. 1932 would approve up to a 10 percent fee increase each semester not to exceed a maximum of \$33 each full semester and \$16.50 for each summer session, with a majority vote of the students.

PURPOSE

As proposed, H.B. 1932 establishes the authority of the board of regents of the University of Texas System to increase the student union fee at the University of Texas at Austin.

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 Section 54.530(a), Education Code, to prohibit a compulsory fee from exceeding \$33 for each regular session and \$16.50 for each term of each summer session, unless the board of regents of the University of Texas System (board) increases the amount as provided by this subsection. Requires the money collected from the fees to be deposited into the Texas Union Fee Account. Authorizes the board with the concurrence of the Student Fees Advisory Committee, to increase the amount of the fee if the increase is approved by a majority vote of the student body. Prohibits the board from increasing the fee to an amount that is more than \$40 for each regular semester and \$20 for each term of each summer session. Makes conforming changes.

SECTION 2. Requires a three-member panel appointed and financed by the office of the Vice President for Student Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin to conduct an external review of the Texas Union to insure the appropriate use of the student union fee imposed by Section 54.530, Education Code. Sets forth requirements for the review. Requires the review panel to make recommendations to the Texas Union board of directors on ways to improve facilities and operations, not later than May 1, 2000. Requires the Vice President for Student Affairs to compile a list of seven proposed members of the review panel, including certain experienced individuals. Prohibits the Vice President for Student Affairs from serving on the review panel. Requires the Vice President for Student Affairs to submit the list to a five-member student committee, which shall select three persons from the list to constitute the review panel. Requires the student committee to select another person if a vacancy occurs on the panel. Provides that the student committee selections are final unless a member is unable to serve, in which case a replacement must be selected. Requires the Vice President for Student Affairs to submit additional names to restore the list of members to seven if the list is less than five. Establishes that this section expires on January 1, 2001.

SECTION 3. Provides that SECTION 1 of this Act applies beginning with the 1999 fall semester. Makes application of this Act prospective.

SECTION 4. Emergency clause.
Effective date: upon passage.