

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
77R8472 JSA-F

H.B. 1465  
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Education  
4/29/2001  
Engrossed

### **DIGEST AND PURPOSE**

Currently, the governing board of a public community college is not permitted to offer different tuition rates for different class times. Some community college administrators believe that the ability to offer reduced tuition rates for certain classes would allow a better utilization of resources and a more efficient use of facilities. H.B. 1465 requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to establish a pilot project to measure the impact of reducing tuition rates for junior college courses at times of low enrollment demand. This provides a means for these schools to serve as many students as possible and to make the best possible use of limited facilities by encouraging students to take advantage of courses offered at off-peak times.

### **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 130A, Education Code, by adding Section 130.0033, as follows:

Sec. 130.0033. PILOT PROJECT: REDUCED TUITION FOR CERTAIN COURSES. (a) Requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (board) to establish a pilot program to measure the impact of reducing tuition for junior college courses offered at times of low enrollment demand in order to promote greater access to higher education and more efficient use of junior college facilities and resources. Requires the board to select a reasonable number of public junior colleges to participate in the pilot project.

(b) Authorizes the governing board of a public junior college selected to participate in the pilot project to charge tuition for a course or courses at a rate established by the governing board that is less than the rate otherwise required by Section 54.051 or other law if the governing board finds that the reduced tuition rate is reasonably necessary to enable the junior college to make efficient use of its facilities or faculty. Requires the finding to be stated in the order or resolution establishing the reduced tuition rate.

(c) Provides that charging tuition at a rate under this section does not effect the right of the public junior college to a proportionate share of state appropriations under Section 130.003 for the contact hours attributable to students paying tuition at the reduced rate.

(d) Requires the governing board of each public junior college participating in the pilot project to prepare a report on the effects of the reduced tuition pertaining to certain criteria and to deliver a copy of the report to the board not later than October 30, 2002.

(e) Requires the board to prepare a report pertaining to certain criteria and to deliver the report to certain persons not later than December 15, 2002.

SECTION 2. (a) Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2001.

(b) Provides that Section 130.0033, Education Code, applies beginning with the 2001 fall semester.