
Higher Education Committee

HB 1433

Brief Description: Decoupling services and activities fees from tuition.

Sponsors: Representatives Stambaugh, Orwall, Haler, Tarleton, Jinkins, Pollet, Stonier, Ryu, Hargrove, Santos and Doglio.

<p style="text-align: center;">Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Removes the provision tying the annual increase of student and activity fees to the percentage increase in student tuition fees.
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Hearing Date: 2/7/17

Staff: Trudes Tango (786-7384).

Background:

Services and activities (S&A) fees are used to fund student activities and programs. Governing boards at institutions of higher education may increase the S&A fee annually. The authorizing statute provides that the annual increase may not exceed the percentage increase of the annual percentage increase in student tuition fees for resident undergraduate students. The percentage increase does not apply to that portion of the S&A fees previously committed to the repayment of bonded debt. Those adjustments may exceed the fiscal growth factor. In the 2013-15 and 2015-17 fiscal biennia, the Legislature authorized governing boards to increase the S&A fees by amounts judged reasonable and necessary by the S&A fee committee and the governing board, as opposed to having the increase tied to tuition.

Each institution has an S&A fee committee and students have a majority of the voting membership on the committee. Student groups and campus programs submit proposals to the S&A fee committee, which reviews the proposals and recommends how S&A fees should be allocated. The S&A fee committee recommends a final budget to the institution's governing board, which is required to give priority consideration to the committee's recommendations.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary of Bill:

The provision limiting the annual increase of S&A fees to the percentage increase in student tuition fees is removed, and instead the annual increase may be increased by amounts judged reasonable and necessary by the S&A fee committee and the governing board. The provision stating that the increase does not apply to that portion of the S&A fees previously committed to the repayment of bonded debt is also removed.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.