

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

S.B. 1467
By: Ellis
Finance
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As Filed

DIGEST

The student center at Texas Southern University serves as the hub of campus life for the university family--students, faculty, administration, alumni, and guests. The building houses a cafeteria, snack bar, ice cream shop, bookstore, offices of student activities, student government association, university program council, student publications, a game room, and meeting rooms. Constructed in 1974 to accommodate a student population of approximately 7,000, the building is in need of resources to provide for timely maintenance and improvements to address the demands of the current clientele. The building's aging factor, along with the increased cost of goods and services have created a demand for increased funds to routinely operate, improve, and maintain the student center.

PURPOSE

As proposed, S.B. 1467 allows an increase in student fees at Texas Southern University to meet the current demands of the student center.

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 54.522, Education Code, to authorize the board of regents of Texas Southern University to levy and collect a student fee not to exceed \$35, rather than \$15, per student for each semester of long session and not to exceed \$17.50, rather than \$7.50 per student for each term of the summer session, from each student enrolled in Texas Southern University. Provides that a fee collected under this section is in addition to any other use or service fee authorized to be levied. Requires the fees collected under this section to be deposited to the credit of an account known as the "Texas Southern University Student Center Fee Account" and to be under the control of the student fee advisory committee established under Section 54.5031. Deletes existing Subsection (e) regarding certain fees. Requires the student fee advisory committee to annually submit to the board of regents a complete and itemized budget for the student center with a complete report of all student center activities conducted during the past year and all expenditures made in connection with those activities. Authorizes the board of regents to make changes in the budget that the board determines are necessary. Authorizes the board of regents, after approving the budget, in accordance with this section, to levy the student center fees for that year in amounts sufficient to meet the budgetary needs of the student center. Prohibits the board from increasing the amount of the student center fee by more than 10 percent in any academic year unless the amount of the increase is approved by a majority of the students voting in an election held for that purpose or by a majority of the student government of the institution. Prohibits a fee levied under this section from being considered in determining the maximum student services fee that may be charged under Section 54.503(b).

SECTION 2. Makes application of this Act prospective.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.
Effective date: upon passage.