

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

C.S.H.B. 882
By: Christian (Staples)
Education
4/30/2003
Committee Report (Substituted)

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA) lacks sufficient funds to upgrade its student center. SFA has not significantly updated its student union since the 1979-1980 school year, and students have expressed a desire to upgrade the facility. C.S.H.B. 882 allows Stephen F. Austin State University to increase its student center fee in order to facilitate the renovation of its student center, contingent on approval by a vote of 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 Section 54.520, Education Code, by amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsection (d), as follows:

(a) Authorizes the board of regents of Stephen F. Austin State University, to the extent approved by the students under Subsection (b), to charge each student enrolled in one or more courses conducted by the university, rather than on the main campus of the university, a fee in the amount of \$9 for each semester credit hour, in a total amount of least \$35 but not to exceed \$85, rather than \$15, per student for each semester or summer session, for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, renovating, operating, maintaining, improving, equipping, and financing a university center or additions to the center. Deletes text regarding the long session and that the fees of each six-week term should not exceed \$7.50 per student. Deletes text authorizing a change in the fee amount at any time within the specified limits in order to support the university. Makes nonsubstantive changes.

(b) Requires the decision to levy a fee under this section to be approved by a majority of votes from the students participating in a general election called for that purpose. Deletes text requiring the amount of the initial fee and any increase in the fee to be approved by the students in a vote. Makes a nonsubstantive change.

[Substituted as drafted does not contain a Subsection (d).]

SECTION 2. Provides that the change in law made by this Act applies only to fees imposed for a semester or term that begins on or after the effective date of this Act.

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