

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

S.B. 1514
By: Barrientos
Subcommittee on Higher Education
4/17/2003
As Filed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

A substantial portion of the buildings and other facilities at The University of Texas at Austin were constructed during 1950s through 1980s, and now require significant repair and renovation. As proposed, S.B. 1514 permits the implementation of a fee to support the construction, renovation, improvement, equipping, or maintaining of academic or research facilities or to operate academic or research programs at The University of Texas at Austin.

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 54, Education Code, by adding Section 51.5135, as follows:

Sec. 54.5135. [sic] ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE FEE; THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN. (a) Authorizes the board of regents of The University of Texas System (board) to charge each student enrolled at The University of Texas at Austin an academic and research infrastructure fee not to exceed \$40 per semester credit hour to finance, construct, renovate, improve, equip, or maintain academic or research facilities or to operate academic or research programs at the university.

(b) Prohibits the fee described in Subsection (a) from being imposed unless the board determines that it is necessary to maintain academic and research excellence at the university or to insure that the academic and research programs at the university remain competitive with peer institutions or programs across the nation.

(c) Prohibits fee charged under this section from being considered in determining the maximum amount of student services fees that may be charged a student enrolled at the institution under Section 54.513.

(d) Provides that the funds collected under this section are institutional funds as that term is defined by Section 51.009 and shall be accounted for in that manner.

(e) Authorizes the board to pledge revenue from a fee imposed under this section to pay an obligation issued under the revenue financing system of The University of Texas System.

(f) Provides that the board is not required to set a uniform fee for all students enrolled at the university but may set differential charges to such students and in such a manner as the board deems to be in the best interest of the university, if the board charges a fee under this section.

SECTION 2. Provides that this Act applies beginning with the fall semester, 2003, notwithstanding any other provision of law.

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