

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

S.B. 1546
By: Janek
Subcommittee on Higher Education
5/2/2003
As Filed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Current law prohibits a laboratory fee charged by a community or junior college from exceeding the cost of actual materials and supplies used by the student. The statute further limits the fee from exceeding \$24, even if the actual costs are significantly higher. Consequently, the excess cost is either placed on the local property taxpayers or onto the overall tuition charged to all students. As proposed, S.B. 1546 eliminates the \$24 cap fee charged by a community or junior college, and requires that a laboratory fee not exceed the cost of actual materials and supplies used by the student.

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 54.501(a), Education Code, to delete language prohibiting a public junior college from charging a student at any one semester or summer term a laboratory fee in excess of \$24.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2003.