

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
78R2949 JRJ-F

S.B. 334  
By: Staples  
Subcommittee on Higher Education  
3/20/2003  
As Filed

### **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. As proposed, S.B. 334 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) of this section, to charge each student enrolled in one or more courses conducted by the university, rather than on the main campus of the university, a fixed fee, not exceeding \$100, rather than \$15, per student for each long semester session and not exceeding \$50, rather than \$7.50, per student for all or part of each six-week term of the 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 authorizing a change in the fee amount at any time within the specified limits. Makes a nonsubstantive change.

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

(d) Authorizes the board of regents to increase the fee charged under this section at any time within the applicable maximum amount provided by Subsection (a), in order to ensure sufficient money to support the university center, except that the fee may not increase by more than 10 percent from one academic year to the next unless the increase has been approved by a majority of the students participating in a general election called for that purpose.

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.