

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 1485

As Reported by House Committee On:
Postsecondary Education & Workforce

Title: An act relating to increasing the annual limit of services and activities fees at institutions of higher education.

Brief Description: Increasing the annual limit of services and activities fees at institutions of higher education.

Sponsors: Representatives Salahuddin, Pollet, Reed, Parshley, Nance and Scott.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Postsecondary Education & Workforce: 2/12/25, 2/19/25 [DP].

Brief Summary of Bill

- Increases the maximum annual services and activities fees limit from 4 to 6 percent.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION & WORKFORCE

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 11 members: Representatives Paul, Chair; Nance, Vice Chair; McEntire, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Entenman, Keaton, Ley, Mendoza, Pollet, Reed, Salahuddin and Thomas.

Minority Report: Do not pass. Signed by 1 member: Representative Rude.

Minority Report: Without recommendation. Signed by 5 members: Representatives Ybarra, Ranking Minority Member; Graham, Leavitt, Schmidt and Timmons.

Staff: Saranda Ross (786-7068).

Background:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Services and activities (S&A) fees fund nonacademic student activities, programs, and projects, such as: student government, entertainment, student organizations, speakers, facilities, and recreation. Governing boards at institutions of higher education may increase the S&A fees annually by amounts not to exceed 4 percent per year, judged to be reasonable and necessary by the S&A fee committee and the governing board.

The governing boards of the community and technical colleges may increase the S&A fees annually by a percentage not to exceed the annual percentage increase in student tuition fees for resident undergraduate students. The percentage increase may not apply to that portion of the S&A fees previously committed to the repayment of bonded debt. Those adjustments may exceed the fiscal growth factor.

Each institution has a S&A fee committee, and students have a majority of the voting membership on the committee. Student groups and campus programs submit proposals to the S&A fee committee, which reviews the proposals and recommends how S&A fees should be allocated. The S&A fee committee recommends a final budget to the institution's governing board, which is required to give priority consideration to the committee's recommendations.

Summary of Bill:

The maximum annual S&A fees limit is increased from 4 to 6 percent.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) Services and activities fees cover a range of services such as housing and dining services, student unions and recreation centers, transportation services, student health centers, student food pantries, and childcare centers. The revenue from current S&A fees does not meet the growing demands of students for these essential services, activities, and support systems. This bill does not impose additional costs on the students, but rather empowers them to make their own determination of services they want to see on their campuses given students are the only voting members within S&A fees committees. In collaboration with staff and respective boards of regents, students are actively involved via S&A fees committees. This bill supports and empowers current and future students by

ensuring these essential services, as determined by the students, are properly funded.

(Opposed) Students should not be required to pay for essential services. Services and activities fees sounds like a social services program but students are at college to receive an education, not essential services. Students should be expected to meet their own personal needs, such as securing their own health care. Services and activities fees should not be required.

Persons Testifying: (In support) Representative Osman Salahuddin, prime sponsor; Sumiran Poudel, UW Seattle Graduate Student; Haley Chee, University of Washington, Seattle Undergraduate; Nicholas Villa, CWU Graduate Student; Ryan Wicklund, Washington Student Association (WSA), and the Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS) of UW; and Mykhail Lembke, University of Washington Graduate and Professional Student Senate.

(Opposed) John Axtell.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.