

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based only on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Date: April 20, 1998 Revised: _____

Subject: Tuition and Matriculation Fees

	<u>Analyst</u>	<u>Staff Director</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Action</u>
1.	<u>White</u>	<u>O'Farrell</u>	<u>ED</u>	<u>Favorable/CS</u>
2.	_____	_____	<u>WM</u>	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This committee substitute authorizes a public university to increase matriculation and tuition fees for students in programs of dentistry, medicine, pharmacy, veterinary medicine, and law. The increases may not exceed 110 percent of the national average of other public universities and must be increased according to a plan recommended by a committee of at least one-half students and approved by the university president and the Board of Regents.

This bill amends section 240.235 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Section 240.235, F.S., authorizes state universities to establish three separate fees to cover services provided on campus: activity and service, athletic, and health. The amount assessed varies by university and ranges from a low of \$9.14 per credit hour to a high of \$21.17 per credit hour. These fees may be raised only if first recommended by a fee committee with students making up at least half its membership. The president and the Board of Regents must approve the fee committee's recommendations before the fees may be assessed.

Other student fees are governed by s. 240.209(3)(e), F.S. Annually the Legislature requires an amount in fee revenue, and the Board of Regents establishes a system wide standard fee schedule calculated to raise that amount. Fees at any university may vary by no more than 10 percent from the standard fee revenues authorized in the General Appropriations Act. Fees for graduate, medical, veterinary, and dental programs may be increased only in the same percentage as the increase in fees for resident undergraduates.

The Legislature appropriates the statewide fees generated as required by s. 240.209, F.S. The local fees regulated by s. 240.235, F.S., are retained by each university.

The following table compares 1996-1997 mandatory fees for residents in first-professional programs at Florida public universities with the national average published by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

Institution	Medical	Dentistry	Veterinary Medicine	Pharmacy	Law
FAMU	--	--	--	\$3,236	--
FSU	--	--	--	--	\$3,509
UF	\$9,774	\$8,594	\$7,334	\$3,096	\$3,460
USF	\$9,516	--	--	--	--
Nat'l Avg./Public	\$9,732	\$8,835	\$7,226	\$5,007	\$5,966
110 Percent of Nat'l. Avg.	\$10,705	\$9,719	\$7,949	\$5,508	\$6,563

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The legislation under consideration will authorize a state university to increase matriculation and tuition fees for students in programs of dentistry, medicine, pharmacy, veterinary medicine, and law. The increases may not exceed 110 percent of the national average of other public universities and must be increased according to a plan recommended by a committee of at least one-half students and approved by the university president and the Board of Regents. The student body president will appoint the student members of the committee and the president will appoint the rest.

Fees may be raised over the next 3 to 5 years to reach the maximum allowed. Each plan must provide for need-based financial assistance so that students are not denied access because of the higher fees. The university may retain any revenue generated by the fee differential.

The following table shows the annual percent increase that will be necessary over the next 5 years to raise the average state university fees for Florida residents to 110 percent of the national average of other public universities.

To raise fees to 110 % NCES Avg.	Medical	Dentistry	Veterinary Medicine	Pharmacy	Law
Nat'l Avg./Public	2.11 percent	2.49 percent	1.62 percent	11.71 percent	13.50 percent

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Student fees at some first-professional programs at state universities will be likely to rise annually during the next 5 years. The maximum will be in programs of law, with an annual increase of up to 11.71 percent, and in the pharmacy program, with an annual increase of up to 13.5 percent.

C. Government Sector Impact:

Depending on the plans approved by the Board of Regents, the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Florida State University, University of Florida, and University of South Florida will be able to retain an additional amount raised from fees. The pharmacy programs and law programs will benefit the most.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
