

HB 717

2006

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to state university student fees; amending s. 1009.24, F.S.; increasing the cap on local fees; removing the annual cap on increases in local fees; authorizing each university board of trustees to establish a technology fee and requiring recommendations by a technology fee committee; requiring final approval of the fee by the university board of trustees; providing fee limitations and excluding the fee from an award under the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (3) of section 1009.24, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (s) is added to subsection (12) of that section, to read:

1009.24 State university student fees.--

(3) Within proviso in the General Appropriations Act and law, each board of trustees shall set university tuition and fees. The sum of the activity and service, health, and athletic fees a student is required to pay to register for a course shall not exceed 45 ~~40~~ percent of the tuition for undergraduate, graduate, or professional students established in law or in the ~~General Appropriations Act~~. No university shall be required to lower any fee in effect on the effective date of this act in order to comply with this subsection. ~~Within the 40 percent cap, universities may not increase the aggregate sum of activity and~~

HB 717

2006

29 ~~service, health, and athletic fees more than 5 percent per year~~
30 ~~unless specifically authorized in law or in the General~~
31 ~~Appropriations Act.~~ A university may increase its athletic fee
32 to defray the costs associated with changing National Collegiate
33 Athletic Association divisions. Any such increase in the
34 athletic fee may exceed ~~both~~ the 45 ~~40~~ percent cap ~~and the 5~~
35 ~~percent cap~~ imposed by this subsection. Any such increase must
36 be approved by the athletic fee committee in the process
37 outlined in subsection (11) and cannot exceed \$2 per credit
38 hour. Notwithstanding the provisions of ss. 1009.534, 1009.535,
39 and 1009.536, that portion of any increase in an athletic fee
40 pursuant to this subsection that causes the sum of the activity
41 and service, health, and athletic fees to exceed the 45 ~~40~~
42 percent cap ~~or the annual increase in such fees to exceed the 5~~
43 ~~percent cap~~ shall not be included in calculating the amount a
44 student receives for a Florida Academic Scholars award, a
45 Florida Medallion Scholars award, or a Florida Gold Seal
46 Vocational Scholars award. This subsection does not prohibit a
47 university from increasing or assessing optional fees related to
48 specific activities if payment of such fees is not required as a
49 part of registration for courses.

50 (12) Each university board of trustees is authorized to
51 establish the following fees:

52 (s) A technology fee. The amount of the initial fee and
53 any subsequent increase in the technology fee must be
54 recommended by a technology fee committee, at least one-half of
55 whom are students appointed by the student body president. The
56 remainder of the committee shall be appointed by the university

HB 717

2006

57 president. A chair, appointed jointly by the university
58 president and the student body president, shall vote only in the
59 case of a tie. The recommendations of the committee shall take
60 effect only upon approval by the university president after
61 consultation with the student body president, with final
62 approval by the university board of trustees. An increase in the
63 technology fee may occur only once each fiscal year and must be
64 implemented beginning with the fall term. The technology fee
65 shall not be included in any award under the Florida Bright
66 Futures Scholarship Program.

67 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.