



General Assembly

January Session, 2013

Raised Bill No. 6604

LCO No. 4237



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:
(HED)

AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENT FEES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2013*) (a) A public institution of
2 higher education's nonpartisan student organization that intends to
3 lobby, as defined in section 1-91 of the general statutes, or engages a
4 lobbyist, as defined in section 1-91 of the general statutes, shall control
5 the funds generated from such organization's collection of voluntary
6 student fees, except such funds shall be under the supervision of the
7 administration of such institution unless such organization meets the
8 requirements in subsection (b) of this section, which shall result in
9 such organization acquiring total control over the management and
10 administration of such funds.

11 (b) (1) Where, by petition, five per cent of the students enrolled at
12 such institution and paying activity fees seek to enable a nonpartisan
13 student organization to acquire total control and administration of the
14 funds generated from the collection of voluntary fees at such
15 institution, a referendum shall be held on the question. Such

16 referendum shall be conducted by secret ballot and notice of such
17 referendum shall be given to all enrolled students paying activity fees
18 at such institution not less than fourteen days prior to such
19 referendum. Such organization shall become responsible for the
20 control and administration of such funds if the majority of votes cast in
21 the referendum approve the organization's acquisition of total control
22 and administration, provided such majority consists of approving
23 votes by not less than twenty per cent of all enrolled students paying
24 activity fees plus one additional approving vote.

25 (2) Any such nonpartisan student organization that takes control of
26 voluntary fees pursuant to a referendum described in this section, shall
27 establish a board of directors whose duty it shall be to hold hearings
28 on budget requests and expenditures of such funds and to recommend
29 the allocation of such funds. Such organization shall have as one of its
30 officers a duly elected treasurer who shall be accountable for such
31 funds and be bonded in an amount determined by the State Insurance
32 and Risk Management Board.

33 (c) A referendum on whether to continue student control of such
34 funds shall be held upon a petition by five per cent of the students
35 enrolled at such institution and paying activity fees. Such referendum
36 shall be held in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of this
37 section. Where a majority of those voting in such referendum
38 disapprove of the continuation of the nonpartisan student
39 organization's control over such funds, supervision of such funds shall
40 be vested in the administration of the institution in accordance with
41 subsection (a) of this section.

42 (d) Notwithstanding any provisions of this section, a referendum on
43 whether to continue the nonpartisan student organization's control of
44 such funds shall be held, in accordance with the provisions of
45 subsection (b) of this section, not less than every four years. Such
46 referendum shall require approval by a majority of votes cast in the
47 referendum, provided such majority consist of approving votes by not

48 less than twenty per cent of all enrolled students paying activity fees
49 plus one additional approving vote.

50 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2013*) Any nonpartisan student
51 organization that intends to lobby or engage a lobbyist and that is in
52 control of funds in accordance with section 1 of this act shall file, or
53 cause to be filed, a balance sheet and statement of operations with the
54 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management at such times as said
55 secretary orders. The organization shall retain a copy of such
56 statements for auditing purposes.

57 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 4-54 of the general statutes is
58 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
59 *passage*):

60 (b) Where the duly constituted student government at any public
61 institution of higher education or where, by petition, five per cent of
62 the students enrolled at such institution and paying activity fees
63 [seeks] seek to establish total control and administration of the student
64 trustee account at such institution, a referendum shall be held on the
65 question. Such referendum shall be conducted by secret ballot and
66 notice of such referendum shall be given to the students at such
67 institution at least fourteen days prior to such referendum. [Upon
68 approval by a majority of at least forty per cent of all students enrolled
69 in the institution and paying activity fees, the] The duly constituted
70 student government of such institution shall become responsible for
71 the control and administration of such account if the majority of votes
72 cast in the referendum approve the question, provided such majority
73 consists of approving votes by not less than twenty per cent of all
74 enrolled students paying activity fees plus one additional approving
75 vote. Pursuant to this subsection any student government controlling
76 student trustee accounts shall establish a finance committee whose
77 duty it shall be to hold hearings on budget requests and expenditures
78 of such accounts and to recommend the allocation of such accounts to
79 the student government. Such student government shall have as one of

80 its officers a duly elected treasurer who shall be accountable for such
81 accounts and be bonded in accordance with the provisions of
82 subsection (a) of this section.

83 Sec. 4. Subsection (d) of section 4-54 of the general statutes is
84 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
85 *passage*):

86 (d) Notwithstanding any provisions of this section, a referendum on
87 whether to continue student control of such account shall be held at
88 least every four years in accordance with the provisions of subsection
89 (b) of this section. Such referendum shall require [approval by a
90 majority of at least forty per cent of all students enrolled in the
91 institution and paying activity fees] the approval of a majority of votes
92 cast in the referendum, provided such majority consists of approving
93 votes by not less than twenty per cent of all enrolled students paying
94 activity fees plus one additional approving vote.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	4-54(b)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	4-54(d)

Statement of Purpose:

To permit funds generated from voluntary student fees collected by a nonpartisan student organization that intends to lobby or engage a lobbyist to be controlled by such nonpartisan student organization at the will of the students and make technical changes to the sections of the general statutes governing the management of trustee accounts.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]