



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6604

January Session, 2013



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) Any nonpartisan student
2 organization that intends to lobby, as defined in section 1-91 of the
3 general statutes, or engages a lobbyist, as defined in section 1-91 of the
4 general statutes, of a public institution of higher education shall
5 control the funds generated from such organization's receipt of
6 voluntary student fees collected by such public institution of higher
7 education, except such funds shall be under the supervision of the
8 administration of such institution unless such organization meets the
9 requirements in subsection (b) of this section and, as a result, becomes
10 responsible for the control and 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 such
13 nonpartisan student organization to acquire total control and
14 administration of the funds generated from the collection of voluntary
15 student fees at such institution, a referendum shall be held on the
16 question. Such referendum shall be conducted by secret ballot and
17 notice of such referendum shall be given to all enrolled students
18 paying activity fees at such institution not less than fourteen days prior
19 to such referendum. Such organization shall become responsible for
20 the control and administration of such funds if the majority of votes

21 cast in the referendum approve the organization's acquisition of total
22 control and administration, provided such majority consists of
23 approving votes by not less than twenty per cent of all enrolled
24 students paying activity fees plus one additional approving vote.

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

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

43 (d) Notwithstanding any provision of this section, a referendum on
44 whether to continue such nonpartisan student organization's control of
45 such funds shall be held, in accordance with the provisions of
46 subsection (b) of this section, not less than every four years. Such
47 referendum shall require approval by a majority of votes cast in the
48 referendum in order for such nonpartisan student organization's
49 control to continue, provided such majority consist of yes votes of not
50 less than twenty per cent of all enrolled students paying activity fees
51 plus one additional yes vote.

52 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2013*) Any nonpartisan student

53 organization that intends to lobby or engage a lobbyist and that is in
54 control of funds generated by such organization's collection of
55 voluntary student fees, in accordance with section 1 of this act, shall
56 file, or cause to be filed, a balance sheet and statement of operations
57 with the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management at such
58 times as said secretary orders. The organization shall retain a copy of
59 such balance sheet and statement for auditing purposes.

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

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

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

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

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| 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) |

HED *Joint Favorable Subst.*