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**Date of First Reading: [February 24, 2025]**

**S.B.2024-2025.05**

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**A Bill**

To be entitled "Utilities Budget Proposal Allocation Increase for Environmental Service Fee Committee" relating to increasing the allotment for the Environmental Service Fee Committee (ESFC) from \$1 per student each semester to \$6.

**WHEREAS:** Texas State University historically established the Environmental Service Fee (ESF) in 2003 in accordance with §54.5111 of the State of Texas Education Code which provides grants (§54.5111(c)) for "environmental improvements at the institution through services related to recycling, energy efficiency and renewable energy, transportation, employment, product purchasing, planning and maintenance, or irrigation;" and

**WHEREAS:** The University recently absorbed the ESF into the utility service budget with other fees. Associate VP of Facilities Dan Costello and Cristine Black, Associate VP of Budget & Planning at TXST, stated in recent meetings with the Sustainability Committee and ESFC that an allocation of

19 \$1 per student per semester as prescribed by the original  
20 ESF legislation has been allotted to the ESFC, the  
21 committee which approves ESF grant funding via  
22 §54.5111(c); and

23 **WHEREAS:** The ESFC allocation has remained unchanged at \$1 per student  
24 per semester, despite inflation and growing demand for  
25 sustainability programs on campus. While other Texas  
26 universities have increased their ESFs to match inflation,  
27 Texas State University has never made adjustments to its fee,  
28 limiting the impact of its sustainability programs; and

29 **WHEREAS:** A recent survey conducted by the Department of  
30 Sustainability found that, as of February 17, 2025, 86%  
31 of students supported increasing the ESF for "enhanced  
32 funding for environmental programs and research," with 65%  
33 of those students favoring an increase of \$5; and

34 **WHEREAS:** An increase in funding would strengthen efforts to protect the  
35 university's wildlife and environment while fostering a culture  
36 of sustainability, as 67% of surveyed students and faculty  
37 strongly agree that sustainability is vital to supporting  
38 healthy communities; and

39 **WHEREAS:** Increased funding would improve the university's  
40 Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS)  
41 score, enhancing its reputation and commitment to  
42 sustainability; and

43 **WHEREAS:** The Sustainability Committee, in collaboration with the ESFC  
44 and Department of Sustainability, has been addressing the  
45 current disparities in the ESFC budget, which currently has  
46 only \$2,460.52 remaining for the remainder of the 2025  
47 university calendar year; and

48 **BE IT ENACTED:** After extensive discussions, surveys, and collaboration,  
49 the Sustainability Committee and Student Government Senate urge  
50 the university to increase the allotment for the ESFC to  
51 honor a budget of \$6 per student per semester, or what  
52 would formerly be a \$6 Environmental Service Fee,  
53 effectively increasing the "fee" by \$5. Doing so will provide  
54 a sustainable budget for the ESFC to effectively operate and  
55 will ensure the continued growth and success of Texas State  
56 University's sustainability initiatives.

57 **BE IT FURTHER ENACTED:** This bill be forwarded to the Student Body  
58 President for further action.