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## DIGEST

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HB 1078 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Freiberg

**Abstract:** Authorizes public postsecondary education management boards to impose tuition and fees for distance education courses.

Present law authorizes public postsecondary education management boards to impose tuition and attendance fees for students enrolled in an academic degree program offered entirely through distance education. Proposed law retains present law and specifies that this authority applies to undergraduate, graduate, or professional programs. Additionally authorizes the boards to impose tuition and fees for students enrolled in an undergraduate, graduate, or professional course offered entirely through distance education.

Present law further provides that the authority to impose tuition and fees for such academic degree programs includes the authority to impose proportional amounts for part-time students and for summer sessions and requires the boards to establish criteria for waiving the tuition and fees for such academic programs in cases of financial hardship. Proposed law applies these provisions to proposed law relative to tuition and fees for distance education courses and specifies that present law and proposed law relative to proportional amounts also applies to academic periods that are not semesters or quarters.

Present law provides that distance education is as defined by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and authorizes the imposition of tuition and fees for distance education academic degree programs when such program is comparable to a program offered through traditional in-person classroom instruction. Proposed law removes present law.

(Amends R.S. 17:3351.17(A) and (B))