

**The Student Senate  
65th Session  
Texas A&M University**

**Introduced By:** Senator Chris Woolsey, Northside  
Senator Christopher Russo, Off Campus  
Senator Thomas McNutt, Liberal Arts  
Senator Austin Springer, Engineering  
Legislative Affairs Chair Cary Cheshire, Liberal Arts

**Action Taken** \_\_\_\_\_

**Certified By:** \_\_\_\_\_

Scott A. Bowen  
Speaker of the Senate

**Duly Approved:** \_\_\_\_\_

John L. Claybrook  
Student Body President

**The Religious Funding Exemption Bill**

*“A bill requesting that students who object to funding various services through their student fees and tuition for religious reasons be allowed to opt out from funding same.”*

**Whereas (1):** Texas A&M University is a public institution, and as such, has an obligation to spend students’ money in ways that does not infringe upon their religious conscience; and,

**Whereas (2):** Many students disagree with the use of student fee and tuition money to pay for a number of services funded through those fees, for religious reasons; and,

**Whereas (3):** While it can be argued that many services are a worthy use of funds in order to provide an opportunity for academic success at Texas A&M, it is reasonable for students to object to a use of their own money that they feel violates their religious conscience; and,

**Whereas (4):** Students should be informed as well as possible about how their money is used; and,

**Senate Bill** S.B. 65-70 – **Page 2 of 2** **Further Certified By:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Scott A. Bowen  
Speaker of the Senate

**Whereas (5):** The broad varieties of religious views expressed by students are equally important, and the variety of services they disagree with should be treated with equal importance.

**Therefore**  
**Let it be**

**Enacted (1):** That the Texas A&M Student Senate shall support the current standing process allowing students who object, for religious and moral purposes, to the use of their student fees and tuition to fund various services to opt out of paying an amount equal to their share of the service funding from their fee and tuition money, at the time of paying said bills; and,

**Let it be**  
**Further**

**Enacted (2):** That students are provided an electronic outlet to communicate their religious disagreements at the time of paying tuition and fees, with specific instructions on the process and a clear link to the proper office provided, as to make the process more publicized so that an opt out may be requested in person; and,

**Let it be**  
**Further**

**Enacted (3):** That, after students have expressed a disagreement, that the University issue a reply in a timely fashion notifying the student whether or not his/her disagreement is deemed valid; and,

**Let it be**  
**Further**

**Enacted (4):** That, if the disagreement is deemed valid, a refund equivalent to the amount in question be provided in a timely and efficient manner to the students, with no additional financial burden placed on the students; and,

**Let it be**  
**Further**

**Enacted (5):** That a copy of this bill shall be sent to:

- Mrs. B. J. Crain, Chief Financial Officer
- Dr R. Bowen Loftin, President of Texas A&M
- Mr. John Sharp, Chancellor, A&M System
- The members of the Texas A&M Board of Regents