
DIGEST

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Barrow

HB No. 99

Abstract: Relative to the Board of Regents, changes "should" to "shall", making mandatory the language providing for the board to be representative of the state's population by race and gender to ensure diversity. Requires the governor to implement this requirement by replacing such board members as necessary to provide the required diversity.

Present constitution provides that the Board of Regents is composed of two members from each congressional district and one from the state at large appointed by the governor, with Senate consent. Provides that the board should be representative of the state's population by race and gender to ensure diversity.

Proposed constitution retains present constitution except changes "should" to "shall", making mandatory the language providing for the board to be representative of the state's population by race and gender to ensure diversity. Requires the governor to implement the requirement. Requires him to determine necessary changes in board membership and identify members to be replaced and the date of replacement (which shall be not later than 60 days after the requirement becomes effective). Provides that the service of such members ends on that date. Requires the governor fill the vacancies thus created so as to provide the required diversity and provides that each such appointee shall serve for the remainder of term of the member replaced.

Present constitution provides that members serve overlapping six-year terms and also provides for term limits by prohibiting appointment to the succeeding term of a member who has served two and one-half terms in three consecutive terms. Excludes from term limits a member appointed to the board prior to the effective date of the term limits amendment. Proposed constitution retains present constitution but substitutes the date the term limit amendment became effective (Dec. 8, 2008) for language referring to that date.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held Oct. 22, 2011.

(Amends Const. Art. VIII, §5(B))