
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 167 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY RABB, PARKER, MADDEN, PIELLI, HILL-EVANS AND
GREEN, JUNE 27, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JUNE 27, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a
2 study on board member selection for the Board of Governors of
3 the State System of Higher Education and the Board of
4 Trustees of each State-related institution of higher
5 education.

6 WHEREAS, In fall 2020, only 19.4% of students enrolled at
7 State System of Higher Education (State System) schools were
8 minoritized students, while 75.1% were white; and

9 WHEREAS, In fall 2020, only 9.8% of faculty and staff at
10 State System schools were minoritized faculty and staff, while
11 83.8% were white; and

12 WHEREAS, The State System adopted diversity, equity and
13 inclusion (DEI) initiatives in August 2020 to, among other
14 goals, increase faculty, staff and student diversity; and

15 WHEREAS, The State-related schools have adopted similar
16 initiatives to increase their DEI efforts; and

17 WHEREAS, Students want to see that their school leaders are
18 people they can relate to and have their interests in mind; and

19 WHEREAS, While student bodies may be increasingly

1 representative of the growing diversity of our broader
2 communities, proactive work must be done to change academic
3 leadership; therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint
5 State Government Commission to conduct a study on board member
6 selection for the Board of Governors of the State System of
7 Higher Education and the Board of Trustees of each State-related
8 institution of higher education; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission study
10 shall, at minimum, analyze the following:

11 (1) Information on how merit is considered in
12 recruiting, screening and appointing board members.

13 (2) Information on how merit is considered in the
14 reappointment of sitting board members.

15 (3) The gender and racial diversity of board members.

16 (4) Whether there are orientation and educational
17 programs for incoming or current board members;

18 and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission prepare
20 a report of the results of the study, which shall include
21 recommendations to:

22 (1) Ensure that board members are chosen based on merit
23 while also ensuring gender and racial diversity.

24 (2) Consider alternative methods of appointing a board.

25 (3) Set clear expectations for board members, including
26 orientation and educational programs for new and current
27 board members;

28 and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue
30 its report to the Governor, the chairperson and minority

1 chairperson of the Education Committee of the Senate and the
2 chairperson and minority chairperson of the Education Committee
3 of the House of Representatives within one year of the adoption
4 of this resolution.