
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1337

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By House Postsecondary Education & Workforce (originally sponsored by Representatives Pollet, McEntire, Reed, Macri, and Nance)

1 AN ACT Relating to the appointment of presidents of institutions
2 of higher education; amending RCW 28B.20.100, 28B.30.100, 28B.35.100,
3 28B.40.100, and 28B.50.102; creating a new section; and declaring an
4 emergency.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that the hiring
7 of presidents at public institutions of higher education is a matter
8 of public interest. To further this interest, the legislature intends
9 to ensure that the top leadership of Washington's public institutions
10 of higher education is selected in a manner that reflects principles
11 of academic partnership with faculty, staff, and students through
12 full participation of faculty and staff regents and trustees.

13 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.20.100 and 2022 c 12 s 1 are each amended to
14 read as follows:

15 (1)(a) The governance of the University of Washington shall be
16 vested in a board of regents to consist of 11 members, one of whom
17 shall be a student and one of whom shall be a full-time or emeritus
18 member of the faculty.

19 (b) The members shall be appointed by the governor with the
20 consent of the senate, and, except for the student member and faculty

1 member, shall hold their offices for a term of six years from the
2 first day of October and until their successors shall be appointed
3 and qualified.

4 (c) The governor shall select the student member from a list of
5 candidates, of at least three and not more than five, submitted by
6 the governing body of the associated students. The student member
7 shall hold the office for a term of one year from the first day of
8 July until the first day of July of the following year or until a
9 successor is appointed and qualified, whichever is later. The student
10 member shall be a full-time student in good standing at the
11 university at the time of appointment.

12 (d) The governor shall select the faculty member from a list of
13 candidates, of at least two and not more than five, submitted by the
14 faculty senate. The faculty member shall hold the office for a term
15 of three years from the first day of October and until a successor is
16 appointed and qualified.

17 (2) Six members of said board shall constitute a quorum for the
18 transaction of business. In the case of a vacancy, or when an
19 appointment is made after the date of the expiration of a term, the
20 governor shall fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term of the
21 regent whose office has become vacant or expired.

22 (3) Except for the term of the student member and the faculty
23 member, no more than the terms of two members will expire
24 simultaneously on the last day of September in any one year.

25 (4) ((A)) With the exception of the initial selection and hiring
26 of the position of university president, a student appointed under
27 this section may not participate or vote on matters relating to the
28 hiring, discipline, or tenure of faculty members and personnel. ((A))
29 With the exception of the initial selection and hiring of the
30 position of university president, a faculty member appointed under
31 this section may not participate or vote on matters related to the
32 hiring, discipline, or tenure of specific faculty members.

33 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.30.100 and 2022 c 12 s 2 are each amended to
34 read as follows:

35 (1)(a) The governance of Washington State University shall be
36 vested in a board of regents to consist of 11 members, one of whom
37 shall be a student and one of whom shall be a full-time or emeritus
38 member of the faculty.

1 (b) The members shall be appointed by the governor with the
2 consent of the senate, and, except for the student member and faculty
3 member, shall hold their offices for a term of six years from the
4 first day of October and until their successors shall be appointed
5 and qualified.

6 (c) The governor shall select the student member from a list of
7 candidates, of at least three and not more than five, submitted by
8 the governing body of the associated students. The student member
9 shall hold the office for a term of one year from the first day of
10 July until the first day of July of the following year or until a
11 successor is appointed and qualified, whichever is later. The student
12 member shall be a full-time student in good standing at the
13 university at the time of appointment.

14 (d) The governor shall select the faculty member from a list of
15 candidates, of at least two and not more than five, submitted by the
16 faculty senate. The faculty member shall hold the office for a term
17 of three years from the first day of October and until a successor is
18 appointed and qualified.

19 (2) Six members of said board shall constitute a quorum for the
20 transaction of business. In the case of a vacancy or when an
21 appointment is made after the date of the expiration of a term, the
22 governor shall fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term of the
23 regent whose office has become vacant or expired.

24 (3) Except for the term of the student member and the faculty
25 member, no more than the terms of two members will expire
26 simultaneously on the last day of September in any one year.

27 (4) Each regent shall, before entering upon the discharge of his
28 respective duties as such, execute a good and sufficient bond to the
29 state of Washington, with two or more sufficient sureties, residents
30 of the state, or with a surety company licensed to do business within
31 the state, in the penal sum of not less than five thousand dollars,
32 conditioned for the faithful performance of his duties as such
33 regent: PROVIDED, That the university shall pay any fees incurred for
34 any such bonds for their board members.

35 (5) ((A)) With the exception of the initial selection and hiring
36 of the position of university president, a student appointed under
37 this section may not participate or vote on matters relating to the
38 hiring, discipline, or tenure of faculty members and personnel. ((A))
39 With the exception of the initial selection and hiring of the
40 position of university president, a faculty member appointed under

1 this section may not participate or vote on matters related to the
2 hiring, discipline, or tenure of specific faculty members.

3 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28B.35.100 and 2006 c 78 s 3 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (1) The governance of each of the regional universities shall be
6 vested in a board of trustees consisting of eight members, one of
7 whom shall be a student. The governor shall select the student member
8 from a list of candidates, of at least three and not more than five,
9 submitted by the governing body of the associated students. They
10 shall be appointed by the governor with the consent of the senate
11 and, except for the student member, shall hold their offices for a
12 term of six years from the first day of October and until their
13 successors are appointed and qualified. The student member shall hold
14 his or her office for a term of one year from the first day of July
15 and until the first day of July of the following year or until his or
16 her successor is appointed and qualified, whichever is later. The
17 student member shall be a full-time student in good standing at the
18 respective university at the time of appointment.

19 (2) Five members of the board constitute a quorum for the
20 transaction of business. In case of a vacancy, or when an appointment
21 is made after the date of expiration of the term, the governor shall
22 fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term of the trustee whose
23 office has become vacant or expired.

24 (3) Except for the term of the student member, no more than the
25 terms of two members will expire simultaneously on the last day of
26 September in any one year.

27 (4) ((A)) With the exception of the initial selection and hiring
28 of the position of regional university president, a student appointed
29 under this section shall excuse himself or herself from participation
30 or voting on matters relating to the hiring, discipline, or tenure of
31 faculty members and personnel.

32 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28B.40.100 and 2006 c 78 s 4 are each amended to
33 read as follows:

34 (1) The governance of The Evergreen State College shall be vested
35 in a board of trustees consisting of eight members, one of whom shall
36 be a student. The governor shall select the student member from a
37 list of candidates, of at least three and not more than five,
38 submitted by the student body. They shall be appointed by the

1 governor with the consent of the senate and, except for the student
2 member, shall hold their offices for a term of six years from the
3 first day of October and until their successors are appointed and
4 qualified. The student member shall hold his or her office for a term
5 of one year from the first day of July and until the first day of
6 July of the following year or until his or her successor is appointed
7 and qualified, whichever is later. The student member shall be a
8 full-time student in good standing at the college at the time of
9 appointment.

10 (2) Five members of the board constitute a quorum for the
11 transaction of business. In case of a vacancy, or when an appointment
12 is made after the date of expiration of the term, the governor shall
13 fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term of the trustee whose
14 office has become vacant or expired.

15 (3) Except for the term of the student member, no more than the
16 terms of two members will expire simultaneously on the last day of
17 September in any one year.

18 (4) ((A)) With the exception of the initial selection and hiring
19 of the position of state college president, a student appointed under
20 this section shall excuse himself or herself from participation or
21 voting on matters relating to the hiring, discipline, or tenure of
22 faculty members and personnel.

23 **Sec. 6.** RCW 28B.50.102 and 2012 c 148 s 3 are each amended to
24 read as follows:

25 (1) Boards of trustees for each college district, by majority
26 vote, may establish a sixth trustee that shall be filled by a
27 student. The governor shall select each student member from a list of
28 candidates, of at least three and not more than five, submitted by
29 the associated student governments or their equivalent of the college
30 district. The student member shall hold his or her office for a term
31 of one year, beginning July 1st and ending June 30th, or until the
32 student member's successor is appointed and qualified, whichever is
33 later. The student member shall be a full-time student in good
34 standing at a college within the college district at the time of
35 appointment and throughout the student's term. If the student member
36 fails to be enrolled at the college full-time or forfeits his or her
37 academic standing, the student member is disqualified and a new
38 student member must be appointed.

1 (2) ((A)) With the exception of the initial selection and hiring
2 of the position of president, a student appointed under this section
3 shall excuse himself or herself from participation or voting on
4 matters relating to the hiring, discipline, or tenure of faculty
5 members and personnel or any other matters pertaining to collective
6 bargaining agreements.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** This act is necessary for the immediate
8 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
9 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
10 effect immediately.

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