
HOUSE BILL 1337

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Pollet, McEntire, Reed, Macri, and Nance

Read first time 01/16/25. Referred to Committee on Postsecondary Education & Workforce.

1 AN ACT Relating to the appointment of presidents of institutions
2 of higher education; adding a new section to chapter 28B.10 RCW;
3 creating a new section; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that the hiring
6 of presidents at public institutions of higher education is a matter
7 of public interest. To further this interest, the legislature intends
8 to ensure that the top leadership of Washington's public institutions
9 of higher education is selected in a manner that reflects principles
10 of academic partnership with faculty, staff, and students, includes
11 opportunities for input from members of the public, and complies with
12 the open public meetings act.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.10
14 RCW to read as follows:

15 (1) The governing board of each respective institution of higher
16 education shall appoint the institution's president in accordance
17 with the following provisions:

18 (a) The governing board shall provide public notice for up to
19 four priority candidates for the position of president of their
20 respective institution. Public notice must be provided at least 30

1 days prior to the date of the public meeting of the governing board
2 at which a final action or vote is to be taken on the employment of a
3 priority candidate. The public meeting must be an open public meeting
4 in compliance with the open public meetings act pursuant to chapter
5 42.30 RCW. A priority candidate's employment application, resume,
6 reference letters, and school transcripts must be made available with
7 the public notice; and

8 (b) Prior to the public meeting and after public notice is
9 provided pursuant to (a) of this subsection, the governing board
10 shall provide a public forum at the institution's campus for the
11 priority candidates for the position of president of the institution
12 to provide the public, including the media and students, faculty, and
13 staff of the institution, with an opportunity to meet and ask
14 questions or provide input regarding the priority candidates.

15 (2) For purposes of this section, "priority candidate" means an
16 individual preliminarily selected to fill a vacancy in a position
17 appointed pursuant to subsection (1) of this section.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
19 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
20 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
21 effect immediately.

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