
HOUSE BILL 1568

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Representatives Sells, Anderson, Probst, Lias, Upthegrove, Hinkle, Carlyle, Zeiger, Ormsby, Haler, Buys, Hasegawa, Stanford, Maxwell, Springer, Miloscia, Sullivan, Haigh, Hunt, Rolfes, Jacks, Dahlquist, Crouse, Kenney, and Moscoso

Read first time 01/25/11. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to appointing student members to the boards of
2 trustees for community colleges and the state board for community and
3 technical colleges; amending RCW 28B.50.100 and 28B.50.050; adding a
4 new section to chapter 28B.50 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that decisions made by
7 governing boards of each respective college greatly impact the lives of
8 students and that student participation in the decision-making process
9 can provide insight into the impacts of actions by trustees that are
10 not always measurable through reports and statistics. Students are on
11 campus every day using services and experiencing aspects of the college
12 that board members may see only on paper, providing a unique and
13 valuable perspective that should not be overlooked.

14 Students serving on governing boards of institutions of higher
15 education have proven effective in Washington and in over thirty other
16 states. For over ten years students at Washington's four-year
17 institutions of higher education have served as voting members on the
18 board of trustees, regents, and the higher education coordinating

1 board; providing greater depth in board deliberations and a well-
2 educated conduit for students to voice ideas and concerns.

3 The student perspective at community colleges also brings the board
4 closer to the student community. Student populations at community
5 colleges are the most diverse of any institution of higher education in
6 the state. Being on campus and in class every day, students are
7 exposed to a more diverse group than any member of the board
8 representing any one group of the community.

9 Student positions on governing boards are also a valuable tool for
10 developing leadership through experiential learning. Student members
11 learn processes of institutional governance, become involved in campus
12 projects, analyze policy proposals, participate in board discussions
13 and decision making.

14 It is the intent of the legislature to enhance community college
15 governance by fostering a more dynamic relationship between students
16 and the colleges through the encouragement of student participation in
17 policy development and decision making at the district and state level.

18 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.50.100 and 1991 c 238 s 37 are each amended to
19 read as follows:

20 There is hereby created a board of trustees for each college
21 district as set forth in this chapter. Each board of trustees shall be
22 composed of five trustees, except as provided in section 3 of this act,
23 who shall be appointed by the governor for terms commencing October 1st
24 of the year in which appointed. In making such appointments the
25 governor shall give consideration to geographical diversity, and
26 representing labor, business, women, and racial and ethnic minorities,
27 in the membership of the boards of trustees. The boards of trustees
28 for districts containing technical colleges shall include at least one
29 member from business and one member from labor.

30 The successors of the trustees initially appointed shall be
31 appointed by the governor to serve for a term of five years except that
32 any person appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the
33 expiration of any term shall be appointed only for the remainder of the
34 term. Each member shall serve until a successor is appointed and
35 qualified.

36 Every trustee shall be a resident and qualified elector of the
37 college district. No trustee may be an employee of the community and

1 technical college system, a member of the board of directors of any
2 school district, or a member of the governing board of any public or
3 private educational institution.

4 Each board of trustees shall organize itself by electing a chairman
5 from its members. The board shall adopt a seal and may adopt such
6 bylaws, rules and regulations as it deems necessary for its own
7 government. Three members of the board shall constitute a quorum, but
8 a lesser number may adjourn from time to time and may compel the
9 attendance of absent members in such manner as prescribed in its
10 bylaws, rules, or regulations. The district president, or if there be
11 none, the president of the college, shall serve as, or may designate
12 another person to serve as, the secretary of the board, who shall not
13 be deemed to be a member of the board.

14 Members of the boards of trustees may be removed for misconduct or
15 malfeasance in office in the manner provided by RCW 28B.10.500.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.50 RCW
17 to read as follows:

18 (1) Each board of trustees for each college district, by majority
19 vote, may establish a sixth trustee that shall be filled by a student.
20 The governor shall select each student member from a list of
21 candidates, of at least three and not more than five, submitted by the
22 associated student government or its equivalent of the college
23 district. The student member shall hold his or her office for a term
24 of one year, beginning July 1st and ending June 30th, or until the
25 student member's successor is appointed and qualified, whichever is
26 later. The student member must be a student in good standing at the
27 community college at the time of appointment and throughout the term of
28 service. The student trustee should be enrolled as a full-time or
29 part-time student in good academic standing throughout the student's
30 term on the board of trustees, except summer term. Should the student
31 trustee fail to be enrolled at the college or forfeit his or her
32 academic standing, the trustee appointment terminates and a new
33 appointment must be made in the same manner as the original
34 appointment.

35 (2) A student appointed under this section must excuse himself or
36 herself from participation or voting on matters relating to the hiring,
37 discipline, or tenure of faculty members and personnel.

1 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28B.50.050 and 1991 c 238 s 30 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 There is hereby created the "state board for community and
4 technical colleges", to consist of ((~~nine~~)) ten members who represent
5 the geographic diversity of the state, one of whom must be a student,
6 and who shall be appointed by the governor, with the consent of the
7 senate. Not including the student member, at least two members shall
8 reside east of the Cascade mountains. In making these appointments,
9 the governor shall attempt to provide geographic balance and give
10 consideration to representing labor, business, women, and racial and
11 ethnic minorities, among the membership of the board. At least one
12 member of the board shall be from business and at least one member of
13 the board shall be from labor. The current members of the state board
14 for community college education on September 1, 1991, shall serve on
15 the state board for community and technical colleges until their terms
16 expire. Successors to these members shall be appointed according to
17 the terms of this section. A ninth member shall be appointed by
18 September 1, 1991, for a complete term.

19 The successors of the members initially appointed shall be
20 appointed for terms of four years except that a person appointed to
21 fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of any term shall be
22 appointed only for the remainder of such term. The student member
23 shall hold his or her office for a term of one year, beginning July 1st
24 and ending June 30th, or until the student member's successor is
25 appointed and qualified, whichever is later. Each member shall serve
26 until the appointment and qualification of his or her successor. All
27 members shall be citizens and bona fide residents of the state.

28 Members of the college board shall be compensated in accordance
29 with RCW 43.03.240 and shall receive reimbursement for travel expenses
30 in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 for each day actually
31 spent in attending to the duties as a member of the college board.

32 The members of the college board may be removed by the governor for
33 inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office, in the manner
34 provided by RCW 28B.10.500.

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