
Postsecondary Education & Workforce Committee

HB 1337

Brief Description: Concerning the appointment of presidents of institutions of higher education.

Sponsors: Representatives Pollet, McEntire, Reed, Macri and Nance.

Brief Summary of Bill
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Establishes a process for institutions of higher education to appoint a president.

Hearing Date: 2/18/25

Staff: Elizabeth Allison (786-7129).

Background:

Community and technical college districts are governed by Governor-appointed Boards of Trustees. Each Board of Trustees is composed of five members appointed for terms of five years. A sixth student member may be selected.

Each regional university and the Evergreen State College is governed by Governor-appointed Boards of Trustees composed of eight members who serve for six years, except a student member who serves for one year. The regional universities are Western Washington University in Bellingham, Eastern Washington University in Cheney, and Central Washington University in Ellensburg.

The University of Washington and Washington State University are each governed by a Governor-appointed Board of Regents composed of 11 members who serve for six years, except

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a student member who serves for one year.

The Boards of Regents and the Boards of Trustees have duties and responsibilities set out in statute, including employing the presidents of their respective college or institution.

Summary of Bill:

The governing board of each institution of higher education must appoint their respective institution's president as follows:

- public notice must be provided for up to four priority candidates for the position of president at least 30 days prior to a meeting at which final action will be taken on a candidate; and
- prior to the public meeting and after public notice, the governing board must provide a forum at their respective campus for the priority candidates to meet with members of the public, including students, faculty, and media, for questions.

A priority candidate is an individual preliminarily selected to fill a vacancy for president.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on February 14, 2025.

Effective Date: The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.