
SENATE BILL 6687

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By Senator Benton

Read first time 01/21/10. Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to student members on the boards of trustees for
2 community colleges and the state board for community and technical
3 colleges; amending RCW 28B.50.100 and 28B.50.050; adding a new section
4 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 institution greatly impact the
8 lives of students and that student participation in the decision-making
9 process can provide insight into the impacts of actions by trustees
10 that are not always measurable through reports and statistics.
11 Students are on campus every day using services and experiencing
12 aspects of the institution that board members may only see on paper,
13 providing a unique and valuable perspective that should not be
14 overlooked.

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

1 trustees, regents, and the higher education coordinating board,
2 providing greater depth in board deliberations and a well-educated
3 conduit for students to voice ideas and concerns.

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 Every trustee shall be a resident and qualified elector of the
2 college district. No trustee may be an employee of the community and
3 technical college system, a member of the board of directors of any
4 school district, or a member of the governing board of any public or
5 private educational institution.

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

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

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

20 (1) Boards of trustees for each college district, by majority vote,
21 may establish a sixth trustee that shall be filled by a student. The
22 governor shall select each student member from a list of candidates, of
23 at least three and not more than five, submitted by the associated
24 student governments or their equivalent of the college district. The
25 student member shall hold his or her office for a term of one year,
26 beginning July 1st and ending June 30th, or until the student member's
27 successor is appointed and qualified, whichever is later. The student
28 member shall be a full-time student in good standing at a college
29 within the college district at the time of appointment.

30 (2) A student appointed under this section shall excuse himself or
31 herself from participation or voting on matters relating to the hiring,
32 discipline, or tenure of faculty members and personnel.

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

35 There is hereby created the "state board for community and
36 technical colleges", to consist of ((~~nine~~)) ten members who represent

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

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

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

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

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