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S.248

Introduced by Senators Pearson, Balint, Baruth and Hardy

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Education; University of Vermont; Board of Trustees; gender balance

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require that the University of Vermont Board of Trustees achieve gender balance by 2025 and maintain it thereafter.

An act relating to requiring gender balance on the University of Vermont's Board of Trustees

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 16 App. V.S.A. § 1-2 is amended to read:

§ 1-2. BOARD OF TRUSTEES; MEMBERSHIP, TERMS OF SERVICE;

PRESIDING CHAIR

(a) The Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College shall be composed of 25 members, whose term of office shall be six years, except as to those who are members ex officio and to those who are student members. The State goal is to have this Board achieve gender balance by 2025 and maintain it thereafter. Gender balance means that the

1 Board is composed of 12 or 13 members who are women or people who  
2 identify as women or nonbinary.

3 (b) Three members shall be appointed by the Governor with the consent of  
4 the Senate. During the legislative session of 1955, the Governor shall appoint  
5 one member for a term of two years, one member for a term of four years, and  
6 one member for a term of six years and it shall be the duty of the Governor  
7 during the session of the Legislature prior to expiration of the term of office of  
8 any of the members to appoint for the term of six years a successor to the  
9 member whose term is expiring. The terms of office of the Trustees shall  
10 expire on the last day of February in the respective years of expiration, and the  
11 terms of office of their successors shall thereafter begin on March 1 and expire  
12 on the last day of February.

13 (c) Nine members shall be those who have been heretofore elected by the  
14 Legislature as members of the Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont  
15 and State Agricultural College, and whose terms have not expired, and their  
16 successors, and it shall be the duty of the Legislature at its session during  
17 which the terms of office of any class of the members expire to elect three  
18 successor members for terms of six years. The terms shall commence on  
19 March 1 in the year of election. The nine Trustees and their successors shall  
20 also constitute the Board of Trustees of the Vermont Agricultural College.

1        (d) Nine members shall be those who have been heretofore elected on  
2        behalf of the University of Vermont as members of the Board of Trustees of  
3        the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College and whose terms  
4        have not expired, and their successors, and it shall be the duty of said nine  
5        Trustees to elect successors to fill vacancies occurring among their number  
6        upon expiration of the terms of office of any of them or otherwise. The nine  
7        Trustees and their successors shall also constitute the Board of Trustees of the  
8        University of Vermont.

9        (e) Two members shall be students enrolled at the University of Vermont  
10       and State Agricultural College. Their terms of office shall be two years. Prior  
11       to February 1, 1978, the Associated Directors for the Appointment of the  
12       University of Vermont and State Agricultural College Student Trustees,  
13       Incorporated shall select and appoint one student for a term of one year and  
14       one student for a term of two years, both of whom shall be enrolled as full-time  
15       undergraduate or full-time graduate students. Annually thereafter, the  
16       Directors shall meet to select and appoint one student trustee for a term of two  
17       years in accordance with the provisions of this section. The Directors shall fill  
18       any vacancy occurring among the student trustee members upon the expiration  
19       of the term of office of any of them or otherwise. A student shall be eligible to  
20       serve as a Trustee, provided the student is a full-time undergraduate or full-  
21       time graduate student matriculating in accordance with the degree

1 qualifications and requirements established by the University of Vermont and  
2 State Agricultural College and if the student remains in that status throughout  
3 the length of the term of office. The term of office of a Student Trustee shall  
4 begin on March 1 following the date of appointment, and the term of office  
5 shall end the last day of February in the year of expiration. Any student  
6 elected hereunder shall have reached ~~the age of~~ 18 years of age.

7 (f) All Trustees so appointed and elected as hereinbefore provided, shall,  
8 together with his or her Excellency, the Governor of the State, and the  
9 President, who shall be, ex officio, a member, constitute an entire Board of  
10 Trustees of the corporation known as the University of Vermont and State  
11 Agricultural College, who shall have the entire management and control of its  
12 property and affairs, and in all things relating thereto, except in the elections to  
13 fill vacancies, as aforesaid, shall act together jointly, as one entire Board of  
14 Trustees; provided, that all future elections or appointments to the Board of  
15 Trustees shall be made with special reference to preventing any religious  
16 denominational preponderance in the Board. The Board shall annually, at its  
17 first regular meeting after the election of new trustees, elect one of its members  
18 to serve as Chair.

19 (g) In order to achieve and maintain gender balance on the Board as  
20 required by subsection (a) of this section, Trustees shall be appointed under  
21 subsection (d) of this section to meet this goal as vacancies arise. The

1 Secretary of the Board shall, on an annual basis on or before December 1,  
2 notify the Governor, the Speaker of the House, and the Senate President Pro  
3 Tempore on the progress in achieving gender balance on the Board, the  
4 number of seats that will be vacated during the next calendar year, and the  
5 gender balance of those seats to be vacated.

6 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

7 This act shall take effect on passage.