HOUSE FILE 377 BY KAJTAZOVIC

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to greater transparency for state board of
- 2 regents meetings, forums, and proposals.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 262.8, Code 2013, is amended to read as
2 follows:

3 262.8 Meetings — public forums — public readings.

<u>1.</u> The board shall meet four times a year. Special meetings
5 may be called by the board, by the president of the board, or
6 by the executive director of the board upon written request of
7 any five members thereof.

8 2. Each regular meeting of the state board of regents
9 shall begin with at least thirty minutes for public comment if
10 requested by members of the public. A member of the public
11 shall be granted up to five minutes to make comments and may be
12 granted more time by a member of the board.

13 3. At least two members of the state board of regents 14 shall hold public forums at which issues relating to the 15 activities of the board and the institutions the board governs 16 can be discussed and addressed. The forums shall provide 17 the community with opportunities to pose questions, receive 18 answers, and make comments. The board shall divide the 19 state into at least six geographic regions, including but 20 not limited to northwest, southwest, north central, south 21 central, northeast, and southeast Iowa, and shall hold a forum 22 in accordance with this subsection in each region at least 23 guarterly. Notice of a forum shall be prominently posted on 24 the board's internet site at least two weeks prior to the date 25 of the forum. 26 4. The board shall hold public readings of a proposal at two 27 regular meetings of the board before the board takes action on 28 a proposal before the board if the proposal affects an academic 29 program at an institution governed by the board, or if the

30 estimated cost of the proposal is one hundred thousand dollars

31 or more. A quorum of the board must be physically present at

32 any board meeting that includes a public reading required by 33 this subsection. The affirmative vote of a majority of the

34 membership of the board is necessary for any action to be taken

35 by the board on a proposal subject to this subsection.

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1 Sec. 2. Section 262.9, Code 2013, is amended by adding the 2 following new subsection:

3 <u>NEW SUBSECTION</u>. 38. The board is subject to chapters 21 and 4 22.

EXPLANATION

6 This bill establishes additional requirements for state 7 board of regents meetings, including a period for public 8 comment, public forums, and public readings.

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9 Each regular board meeting shall begin with at least 30 10 minutes for public comment if requested by members of the 11 public. A member of the public shall be granted up to five 12 minutes to make comments and may be granted more time by a 13 member of the board.

At least two members of the board shall hold public forums in 15 each of at least six geographic regions of the state quarterly. 16 Notice of a forum must be prominently posted on the board's 17 internet site at least two weeks prior to the date of the 18 forum.

19 If a proposal before the board affects an institution's 20 academic program or if its estimated cost is \$100,000 or 21 more, the bill requires that the board hold public readings 22 of the proposal at two regular meetings of the board before 23 taking action on the proposal. A quorum of the board must be 24 physically present at these meetings, and the proposal must 25 receive the affirmative vote of a majority of the membership 26 for any action to be taken on the proposal.

The bill specifies that the board is subject to and required to comply with Code chapters 21 and 22, the open meetings and open records laws.

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