

Senate File 288 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 288
BY CHELGREN

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to consideration of political affiliation and
2 balance in the employment of faculty at institutions of
3 higher education governed by the state board of regents.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 262.9, Code 2017, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 39. Require partisan balance of the
4 faculty employed at each of the institutions of higher learning
5 governed by the board. A person shall not be hired as a
6 professor or instructor member of the faculty at such an
7 institution if the person's political party affiliation on
8 the date of hire would cause the percentage of the faculty
9 belonging to one political party to exceed by ten percent the
10 percentage of the faculty belonging to the other political
11 party, on the date established by the board for determining
12 the political party composition of the faculty. A person who
13 declares a no party affiliation need not be considered in
14 determining the political party composition of the faculty.
15 Annually, on a date to be established by the board, the state
16 commissioner of elections shall cooperate with the board and
17 furnish, free of charge, voter registration records to the
18 institutions of higher learning governed by the board to meet
19 the requirements of this subsection. For purposes of this
20 subsection, "*partisan balance*" refers to balance between faculty
21 members who declare a political affiliation with one of the
22 two political parties whose candidates for president of the
23 United States or for governor, as the case may be, received the
24 largest and next largest number of votes at the last general
25 election.

26 EXPLANATION

27 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
28 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

29 This bill directs the state board of regents to require
30 partisan balance of the faculty employed at each regents
31 university. "Partisan balance" refers to the balance between
32 faculty members who declare a political affiliation with one of
33 the two political parties whose candidates for president of the
34 United States or for governor, as the case may be, received the
35 largest and next largest number of votes at the last general

1 election.

2 The bill prohibits such a university from hiring a person
3 as a professor or instructor if the percentage of the faculty
4 belonging to one political party would exceed by 10 percent the
5 percentage of faculty belonging to the other political party on
6 the date established by the board for determining the political
7 party composition of the faculty. A person who declares no
8 party affiliation need not be considered in determining the
9 political affiliation composition of the faculty body.

10 Annually, on a date to be determined by the board, the state
11 commissioner of elections must cooperate with the board and
12 furnish, free of charge, voter registration records to the
13 regents universities.