

**House File 2558 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2558  
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 2327)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to higher education, including by modifying  
2 the responsibilities of private institutions of higher  
3 education, community colleges, the state board of regents,  
4 and institutions of higher education governed by the state  
5 board of regents, modifying provisions related to diversity,  
6 equity, and inclusion policies, tuition, and administrator  
7 hiring at state universities, membership of the state board  
8 of regents, and student-employer work and tuition programs  
9 at state universities and community colleges, and including  
10 applicability provisions.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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DIVISION I  
SHORT TITLE

Section 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Higher Education Reform Act of 2024".

DIVISION II  
COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Sec. 2. Section 260C.14, Code 2024, is amended by adding the following new subsections:

NEW SUBSECTION. 25. On or before December 31, 2024, establish a program that satisfies all of the following requirements:

*a.* Allows students admitted to the community college to complete the community college's associate's degree program while working part-time for an employer registered under the program.

*b.* Requires the student and a representative of the student's employer to execute an agreement that requires the student to work part-time for the student's employer for at least one calendar year and that describes the rights and responsibilities of the student and the employer under the program.

*c.* Requires the student's employer to pay all of the tuition and mandatory fees associated with the student's participation in the associate's degree program during the fall and spring semesters.

*d.* Requires the student's employer to pay the student a rate of compensation that shall not be less than the higher of the applicable federal or state minimum wage.

NEW SUBSECTION. 26. Adopt policies and procedures that require the community college to accept the classic learning test, developed by classic learning initiatives, as a means of determining whether to admit a student to the community college.

NEW SUBSECTION. 27. Adopt policies and procedures that require the community college to follow state law, regardless

1 of any rules or directives of any accrediting agency.

2 NEW SUBSECTION. 28. Adopt policies and procedures that  
3 require the community college to authorize the president of  
4 the community college to initiate a post-tenure review of any  
5 employee of the community college at any time.

6 NEW SUBSECTION. 29. Adopt policies and procedures  
7 that require any strategic plan adopted by the community  
8 college to include a description of how the community college  
9 will prioritize degree programs that lead to employment  
10 in high-demand fields within the state. The policies and  
11 procedures shall also require that the community college's  
12 current strategic plan be revised to include a description of  
13 how the community college will prioritize degree programs that  
14 lead to employment in high-demand fields within the state.

15 NEW SUBSECTION. 30. Adopt policies and procedures that  
16 prohibit any faculty senate committee or subcommittee from  
17 having any governance authority over the community college.  
18 The policies and procedures shall provide that the scope of  
19 authority of a faculty senate committee or subcommittee is  
20 limited to an advisory role.

21 DIVISION III

22 STATE BOARD OF REGENTS

23 Sec. 3. Section 262.1, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
24 follows:

25 **262.1 Membership.**

26 1. The state board of regents consists of nine voting  
27 members, eight of whom shall be selected from the state at  
28 large solely with regard to their qualifications and fitness  
29 to discharge the duties of the office. The ninth member shall  
30 be a student enrolled on a full-time basis in good standing  
31 at either the graduate or undergraduate level at one of the  
32 institutions listed in [section 262.7, subsection 1, 2, or 3,](#)  
33 at the time of the member's appointment. Not more than five  
34 members shall be of the same political party.

35 2. In addition to the nine voting members, the membership

1 of the state board of regents shall include two ex officio,  
2 nonvoting members of the general assembly, with one member  
3 designated by the majority leader of the senate and one member  
4 designated by the speaker of the house of representatives. A  
5 legislative member serves for a term as provided in section  
6 69.16B.

7 Sec. 4. Section 262.2, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
8 follows:

9 **262.2 Appointment — term of office.**

10 The voting members shall be appointed by the governor  
11 subject to confirmation by the senate. Prior to appointing  
12 the ninth member as specified in [section 262.1, subsection 1](#),  
13 the governor shall consult with the appropriate student body  
14 government at the institution at which the proposed appointee  
15 is enrolled. The term of each voting member of the board shall  
16 be for ~~six~~ four years, unless the ninth member, appointed in  
17 accordance with [section 262.1, subsection 1](#), graduates or  
18 is no longer enrolled at an institution of higher education  
19 under the board's control, at which time the term of the  
20 ninth member shall expire one year from the date on which the  
21 member graduates or is no longer enrolled in an institution  
22 of higher education under the board's control. However, if  
23 within that year the ninth member reenrolls in any institution  
24 of higher education under the board's control on a full-time  
25 basis and is a student in good standing at either the graduate  
26 or undergraduate level, the term of the ninth member shall  
27 continue in effect. The terms of ~~three~~ the voting members of  
28 the board shall be staggered and shall begin and expire ~~in each~~  
29 ~~odd-numbered year~~ as provided in section 69.19.

30 Sec. 5. Section 262.4, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
31 follows:

32 **262.4 Removals.**

33 The governor, with the approval of a majority of the senate  
34 during a session of the general assembly, may remove any voting  
35 member of the board for malfeasance in office, or for any cause

1 which would render the voting member ineligible for appointment  
2 or incapable or unfit to discharge the duties of office, and  
3 the voting member's removal, when so made, shall be final.

4 Sec. 6. Section 262.5, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
5 follows:

6 **262.5 Suspension.**

7 When the general assembly is not in session, the governor  
8 may suspend any voting member so disqualified and shall appoint  
9 another to fill the vacancy thus created, subject to the  
10 approval of the senate when next in session.

11 Sec. 7. Section 262.6, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
12 follows:

13 **262.6 Vacancies.**

14 Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner in which  
15 regular appointments are required to be made. If the ninth  
16 voting member resigns prior to the expiration of the term,  
17 the individual appointed to fill the vacancy shall meet the  
18 requirements for the ninth voting member specified in section  
19 262.1, subsection 1. Other vacancies in the voting members  
20 occurring prior to the expiration of the ninth voting member's  
21 term shall be filled in the same manner as the original  
22 appointments for those vacancies.

23 Sec. 8. Section 262.8, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
24 follows:

25 **262.8 Meetings.**

26 The board shall meet four times a year. Special meetings  
27 may be called by the board, by the president of the board, or  
28 by the executive director of the board upon written request of  
29 any five voting members thereof.

30 Sec. 9. APPLICABILITY. The following applies to members of  
31 the state board of regents appointed by the governor, and not  
32 yet confirmed by the senate, on or after the effective date of  
33 this division of this Act:

34 The section of this division of this Act amending section  
35 262.2.

1 DIVISION IV  
2 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION GOVERNED BY THE STATE BOARD  
3 OF REGENTS

4 Sec. 10. Section 262.9, subsections 2 and 22, Code 2024, are  
5 amended to read as follows:

6 2. a. Elect a president of each of the institutions of  
7 higher learning; a treasurer and a secretarial officer for each  
8 institution annually; professors, instructors, officers, and  
9 employees; and fix their compensation.

10 b. (1) When electing a president of an institution of  
11 higher learning, the board shall use a presidential selection  
12 committee that shall provide the board with recommendations  
13 related to the best candidate for the position. The board  
14 shall not elect a president of an institution of higher  
15 learning unless the presidential selection committee  
16 recommended the election of the president to the board.

17 (2) Only members of the board shall serve as members of the  
18 presidential selection committee.

19 (3) In carrying out its duties under this paragraph, the  
20 presidential selection committee may do any of the following:

21 (a) Contract for and use the services of any person engaged  
22 in the business of placing highly qualified job candidates in  
23 leadership positions.

24 (b) Use moneys allocated to the committee by the board.

25 (4) The identity of a candidate for president of an  
26 institution of higher learning being considered by the  
27 presidential selection committee shall be confidential and  
28 shall not be a public record subject to disclosure under  
29 chapter 22.

30 22. a. Develop a policy and adopt rules relating to the  
31 establishment of tuition rates which provide a predictable  
32 basis for assessing and anticipating changes in tuition rates.

33 b. The rules shall provide that an institution of higher  
34 education under the board's control shall not increase the  
35 total amount of resident tuition and mandatory fees associated

1 with the baccalaureate program by more than three percent of  
2 the total amount of tuition and mandatory fees the institution  
3 charged residents during the immediately preceding academic  
4 year unless approved by the legislative council.

5 Sec. 11. Section 262.9, Code 2024, is amended by adding the  
6 following new subsections:

7 NEW SUBSECTION. 39. *a.* Direct the institutions of higher  
8 education under its control to adopt policies and procedures  
9 that prohibit the institution from hiring any new employee to  
10 serve as an administrator unless the board approves the hiring  
11 of the new employee.

12 *b.* The policies and procedures adopted pursuant to paragraph  
13 "*a*" shall not prohibit an institution of higher education under  
14 the control of the state board of regents from filling an open  
15 administrator position with an administrator who is currently  
16 employed by the institution of higher education.

17 *c.* For purposes of this subsection, "*administrator*" means an  
18 employee who serves in the role of provost, vice president, or  
19 otherwise directly reports to the president of the institution  
20 of higher education. "*Administrator*" does not include the  
21 president of the institution of higher education.

22 NEW SUBSECTION. 40. Direct the institutions of higher  
23 education under its control to establish, on or before December  
24 31, 2024, a program at each institution that satisfies all of  
25 the following requirements:

26 *a.* Allows students admitted to the baccalaureate degree  
27 program at the institution to complete the baccalaureate degree  
28 program while working part-time for an employer registered  
29 under the program.

30 *b.* Requires the student and a representative of the  
31 student's employer to execute an agreement that requires the  
32 student to work part-time for the student's employer for at  
33 least one calendar year and that describes the rights and  
34 responsibilities of the student and the employer under the  
35 program.

1     *c.* Requires the student's employer to pay all of the tuition  
2 and mandatory fees associated with the student's participation  
3 in the baccalaureate degree program during the fall and spring  
4 semesters.

5     *d.* Requires the student's employer to pay the student a rate  
6 of compensation that shall not be less than the higher of the  
7 applicable federal or state minimum wage.

8     NEW SUBSECTION. 41. Direct the institutions of higher  
9 education under its control to structure university-wide  
10 diversity, equity, and inclusion offices to eliminate any  
11 diversity, equity, and inclusion function that is not necessary  
12 for compliance with federal or state laws or accreditation.  
13 The institutions of higher education shall make the support  
14 services that were provided by such offices broadly available  
15 to all students and employees, subject to applicable federal  
16 and state eligibility requirements.

17     NEW SUBSECTION. 42. Direct the institutions of higher  
18 education under its control to regularly do all of the  
19 following:

20     *a.* Review the services provided by offices that support  
21 diversity or multicultural affairs in other divisions of the  
22 institution to ensure that such services are available to all  
23 students, subject to applicable federal or state eligibility  
24 requirements.

25     *b.* Update promotional and informational materials and  
26 internet sites to clarify that the mission of offices that  
27 support diversity or multicultural affairs in other divisions  
28 of the institution is to support success broadly.

29     NEW SUBSECTION. 43. Direct the institutions of higher  
30 education under its control to take reasonable steps to assure  
31 all of the following:

32     *a.* That an employee, student, applicant, or campus visitor  
33 is not required to submit a diversity, equity, and inclusion  
34 statement, or be evaluated based on participation in a  
35 diversity, equity, and inclusion initiative, unless required



1 for compliance or accreditation related to diversity, equity,  
2 and inclusion.

3 *b.* That an employee, student, applicant, or campus visitor  
4 is not compelled to disclose the employee's, student's,  
5 applicant's, or campus visitor's preferred pronouns.

6 NEW SUBSECTION. 44. Develop a policy that each  
7 institution of higher education under the control of the board  
8 shall approve, institute, and enforce, that prohibits the  
9 consideration of race and other protected class characteristics  
10 during the admissions process that is consistent with current  
11 federal and state law.

12 NEW SUBSECTION. 45. Develop a policy that each institution  
13 of higher education under the control of the board shall  
14 approve, institute, and enforce, that contains guidance for  
15 employees of each institution related to the separation of  
16 personal political advocacy from the employee's job duties and  
17 the business of the institution.

18 NEW SUBSECTION. 46. Direct the institutions of higher  
19 education under its control to adopt policies and procedures  
20 to advance the diversity of intellectual and philosophical  
21 perspectives in faculty and staff applicant pools.

22 NEW SUBSECTION. 47. Provide an annual notice to the  
23 institutions of higher education under its control concerning  
24 the board's policy related to institution statements on matters  
25 of public concern.

26 NEW SUBSECTION. 48. Require the institutions of higher  
27 education under its control to accept the classic learning  
28 test, developed by classic learning initiatives, as a means of  
29 determining whether to admit a student to the baccalaureate  
30 program offered by the institution.

31 NEW SUBSECTION. 49. Direct the institutions of higher  
32 education under its control to follow state law, regardless of  
33 any rules or directives of any accrediting agency.

34 NEW SUBSECTION. 50. *a.* Direct the institutions of higher  
35 education under its control to adopt policies that require

1 all undergraduate students admitted on or after the 2024-2025  
2 academic year to complete a three-credit-hour course devoted to  
3 American history and civics prior to graduation.

4     *b.* Direct the institutions of higher education under its  
5 control to develop the curriculum and materials related to the  
6 American history and civics course, subject to the approval  
7 of the board. The curriculum shall focus on the founding of  
8 the United States and shall emphasize the federalist papers,  
9 the United States Constitution, and the three branches of  
10 government.

11     NEW SUBSECTION. 51. Direct the institutions of higher  
12 education under its control to adopt policies that authorize  
13 the president of the institution to initiate a post-tenure  
14 review of any employee of the institution at any time.

15     NEW SUBSECTION. 52. Direct the institutions of higher  
16 education under its control to adopt policies that require  
17 any strategic plan adopted by the institution to include a  
18 description of how the institution will prioritize degree  
19 programs that lead to employment in high-demand fields within  
20 the state. The policies and procedures shall also require that  
21 the institution's current strategic plan be revised to include  
22 a description of how the institution will prioritize degree  
23 programs that lead to employment in high-demand fields within  
24 the state.

25     NEW SUBSECTION. 53. Prohibit the institutions of higher  
26 education under its control from allowing any Confucius  
27 institute, or any other educational institute funded in whole  
28 or in part by the People's Republic of China, to be located on  
29 any property owned by the institution of higher education.

30     NEW SUBSECTION. 54. Direct the institutions of higher  
31 education under its control to adopt policies and procedures  
32 that prohibit any faculty senate committee or subcommittee  
33 from having any governance authority over the institution of  
34 higher education. The policies and procedures shall provide  
35 that the scope of authority of a faculty senate committee or

1 subcommittee is limited to an advisory role.

2 NEW SUBSECTION. 55. In a timely manner, respond to and  
3 fulfill any request for information submitted to the board by a  
4 member of the general assembly or the governor.

5 Sec. 12. INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION GOVERNED BY THE  
6 STATE BOARD OF REGENTS — REQUIRED REVIEWS.

7 1. On or before December 31, 2024, each institution of  
8 higher education governed by the state board of regents shall  
9 do all of the following:

10 a. Review all college, department, and unit-level  
11 diversity, equity, and inclusion positions to determine whether  
12 diversity, equity, and inclusion-specific job responsibilities  
13 are necessary for compliance with federal or state law,  
14 accreditation, or for the provision of student or employee  
15 support services.

16 b. Adjust or eliminate any diversity, equity, and inclusion  
17 position that is not necessary for those purposes described in  
18 paragraph "a".

19 c. Review all employee position names and working titles to  
20 ensure that the position names and working titles appropriately  
21 reflect the employee's responsibilities.

22 2. Each institution of higher education governed by the  
23 state board of regents shall initiate and conduct a review of  
24 general education categories related to diversity, equity, and  
25 inclusion and update such categories to accurately reflect the  
26 array of options students may select in order to satisfy the  
27 requirements associated with such categories and to ensure a  
28 breadth of offerings.

29 Sec. 13. INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION GOVERNED BY THE  
30 STATE BOARD OF REGENTS — REQUIRED DEVELOPMENT OF NEW ACADEMIC  
31 PROGRAM. Prior to the November 2024 meeting of the state board  
32 of regents, each institution of higher education governed by  
33 the state board of regents shall develop and submit to the  
34 state board of regents, the general assembly, and the governor,  
35 a proposed baccalaureate degree program that requires a student

1 to complete no more than ninety semester hours of classroom  
2 work.

3 Sec. 14. COMPREHENSIVE STUDY — REDUCTION OF COSTS. Each  
4 institution of higher education governed by the state board of  
5 regents shall do all of the following:

6 1. Conduct a comprehensive study related to how to reduce  
7 costs, maintain close to current levels of tuition and  
8 mandatory fees, and maintain noninstructional costs below ten  
9 percent of the institution's annual budget.

10 2. Prior to the November 2024 meeting of the state board  
11 of regents, each institution of higher education governed by  
12 the state board of regents shall develop and submit to the  
13 state board of regents, the general assembly, and the governor  
14 a report detailing the results of the comprehensive study  
15 described in subsection 1.

16 Sec. 15. TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES.

17 1. The rules adopted by the state board of regents  
18 pursuant to section 262.9, subsection 22, shall provide  
19 that the amount of tuition and mandatory fees charged by an  
20 institution of higher education under the board's control to  
21 an undergraduate student who began the undergraduate program  
22 during the 2024-2025 academic year shall not increase during  
23 the student's first four full academic years of participation  
24 in the undergraduate program.

25 2. Subsection 1 shall not prohibit an institution of higher  
26 education under the board's control from increasing the amount  
27 of tuition and mandatory fees charged to an undergraduate  
28 student who began the undergraduate program during the  
29 2024-2025 academic year, consistent with section 262.9,  
30 subsection 22, paragraph "b", as amended by this division  
31 of this Act, after the student's first two full academic  
32 years of participation in the undergraduate program, if the  
33 undergraduate student had attained at least thirty semester  
34 hours of undergraduate credit, but less than sixty semester  
35 hours of undergraduate credit, on or before the student's date

1 of admission.

2 3. Subsection 1 shall not prohibit an institution of  
3 higher education under the board's control from increasing  
4 the amount of tuition and mandatory fees charged to an  
5 undergraduate student who began the undergraduate program  
6 during the 2024-2025 academic year, consistent with section  
7 262.9, subsection 22, paragraph "b", as amended by this  
8 division of this Act, after the student's first full academic  
9 year of participation in the undergraduate program, if the  
10 undergraduate student had attained at least sixty semester  
11 hours of undergraduate credit on or before the student's date  
12 of admission.

13 Sec. 16. INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION GOVERNED BY  
14 THE STATE BOARD OF REGENTS — EDUCATION AND RESEARCH ON FREE  
15 SPEECH AND CIVIC EDUCATION PROPOSAL. Prior to the November  
16 2024 meeting of the state board of regents, each institution  
17 of higher education governed by the state board of regents  
18 shall develop and submit to the state board of regents, the  
19 general assembly, and the governor, a proposal related to the  
20 establishment of a center, institute, or initiative that is  
21 dedicated to expanding opportunities for education and research  
22 concerning freedom of speech and civic education.

23 DIVISION V

24 CLOSURE OF PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

25 Sec. 17. NEW SECTION. 261J.1 Closure of private  
26 institutions of higher education.

27 1. An accredited private institution shall provide notice  
28 to the department of education immediately upon a vote of the  
29 accredited private institution's governing board to close the  
30 institution.

31 2. Within three days after providing notice under  
32 subsection 1, an accredited private institution shall  
33 provide the department of education with copies of all of the  
34 following:

35 a. Teachout plan.

- 1     **b.** The notice to faculty, staff, and students that the  
2 institution will close.
- 3     **c.** Plans to coordinate alternative program options.
- 4     **d.** A comprehensive list of students with contact information  
5 and information related to each student's current status at the  
6 institution as of the date the institution will close.
- 7     **e.** The institution's plan to provide transitional support.
- 8     **f.** The institution's transcript retention plan.
- 9     **g.** The process and contact person for student concerns,  
10 complaints, and questions related to the closure of the  
11 institution, both before and after the institution closes.

12     **3.** For purposes of this section, "*accredited private*  
13 *institution*" means the same as defined in section 256.183.

14   DIVISION VI

15     INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION GOVERNED BY THE STATE BOARD  
16     OF REGENTS AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES — COORDINATION OF ACADEMIC  
17   PROGRAMS

18     Sec. 18. NEW SECTION.   **261K.1 Coordination of academic**  
19 **programs.**

20     The members of the state board of regents, the presidents and  
21 provosts of each institution of higher learning governed by the  
22 state board of regents, the chancellors and presidents of each  
23 community college, and the president of the board of directors  
24 of each community college shall meet annually to discuss the  
25 coordination of academic programs in order to increase student  
26 outcomes and efficiencies for the state.

27   EXPLANATION

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

30     This bill relates to higher education, including by  
31 modifying the responsibilities of private institutions of  
32 higher education, community colleges, the state board of  
33 regents, and institutions of higher education governed by  
34 the state board of regents, modifying provisions related  
35 to diversity, equity, and inclusion policies, tuition, and

1 administrator hiring at state universities, membership of the  
2 state board of regents, and student-employer work and tuition  
3 programs at state universities and community colleges.

4 DIVISION I — SHORT TITLE. The bill shall be known and may  
5 be cited as the "Higher Education Reform Act of 2024".

6 DIVISION II — COMMUNITY COLLEGES. The bill makes several  
7 modifications to Code section 260C.14 (authority of boards  
8 of directors of community colleges) to require the board of  
9 directors of each community college to take certain actions,  
10 including actions related to the establishment of a program  
11 that allows students to complete an associate's degree while  
12 working part-time for an employer registered under the program,  
13 the acceptance of certain admissions tests, and the adoption  
14 of policies related to post-tenure reviews. The bill also  
15 requires the board of directors of each community college to  
16 adopt policies that prohibit any faculty or senate committee  
17 or subcommittee from having any governance authority over the  
18 community college.

19 DIVISION III — STATE BOARD OF REGENTS. Current law provides  
20 that the state board of regents consists of nine members,  
21 all of whom are appointed by the governor and subject to  
22 confirmation by the senate. The bill adds two legislative  
23 members to the state board of regents, one who is appointed  
24 by the speaker of the house of representatives and one who is  
25 appointed by the president of the senate. The bill provides  
26 that the legislative members serve as ex officio, nonvoting  
27 members. The bill makes conforming changes.

28 Current law provides that the term of each member of the  
29 state board of regents is six years. The bill modifies this  
30 provision to provide that the term of each member of the  
31 state board of regents who is appointed by the governor, and  
32 subject to confirmation by the senate, is four years. The  
33 bill provides that this modification applies to members of the  
34 state board of regents appointed by the governor, and not yet  
35 confirmed by the senate, on or after the effective date of the

1 bill.

2       DIVISION IV — INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION GOVERNED BY  
3 THE STATE BOARD OF REGENTS. Current law requires the state  
4 board of regents to elect a president of each institution  
5 of higher learning. The bill provides that, when electing  
6 the president, the state board of regents shall utilize a  
7 presidential selection committee that is required to provide  
8 the board with recommendations related to the best candidate  
9 for the position. The bill prohibits the state board of  
10 regents from electing a president unless the presidential  
11 selection committee recommended the election of the president.  
12 The bill establishes that only members of the state board of  
13 regents shall serve as members of the presidential selection  
14 committee. The bill authorizes the presidential selection  
15 committee to utilize the services of any person engaged  
16 in the business of placing highly qualified job candidates  
17 in leadership positions and to use moneys allocated to  
18 the committee by the state board of regents. The bill  
19 establishes that the identity of a candidate for president  
20 of an institution of higher learning being considered by the  
21 presidential selection committee shall be confidential and  
22 shall not be a public record subject to disclosure.

23       Current law requires the state board of regents to develop  
24 a policy and adopt rules relating to the establishment of  
25 tuition rates. The bill requires these rules to provide that  
26 an institution of higher education shall not increase the total  
27 amount of resident tuition and mandatory fees associated with  
28 the baccalaureate program by more than 3 percent of the total  
29 amount of tuition and mandatory fees the institution charged  
30 to residents during the immediately preceding academic year  
31 unless approved by the legislative council. The bill also  
32 provides that these rules shall prohibit institutions of higher  
33 education from increasing the total amount of tuition and  
34 mandatory fees charged to an undergraduate student who began  
35 the undergraduate program during the 2024-2025 academic year



1 during the student's first four full academic years, subject to  
2 certain limitations that apply to transfer students.

3 The bill makes several modifications to the duties of  
4 the state board of regents, including but not limited to  
5 modifications related to the hiring of administrators, the  
6 establishment of a program that allows students to complete a  
7 baccalaureate degree while working part-time for an employer  
8 registered under the program; the elimination of diversity,  
9 equity, and inclusion functions; the development of admissions  
10 policies; the development of employment policies; the addition  
11 of required courses for undergraduate students; the adoption  
12 of policies related to post-tenure review; the prohibition of  
13 Confucius institutes; and the review of efforts and positions  
14 related to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

15 The bill requires each institution of higher education  
16 to develop and submit to the state board of regents, the  
17 general assembly, and the governor, prior to the November 2024  
18 meeting of the state board of regents, a proposed baccalaureate  
19 degree program that requires no more than 90 semester hours  
20 of classroom work, a report detailing the results of a  
21 comprehensive study related to the reduction of costs and  
22 how to maintain levels of tuition and mandatory fees, and a  
23 proposal related to the establishment of a center that is  
24 dedicated to expanding opportunities for education and research  
25 concerning freedom of speech and civic education.

26 DIVISION V — CLOSURE OF PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER  
27 EDUCATION. The bill requires accredited private institutions,  
28 as defined in Code section 256.183 (Iowa tuition grants  
29 program), to provide notice to the department of education  
30 immediately upon a vote of the institution's governing board to  
31 close. The bill also requires accredited private institutions  
32 to provide the department of education with copies of certain  
33 specified documents within three days after providing such  
34 notice.

35 DIVISION VI — INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION GOVERNED

1 BY THE STATE BOARD OF REGENTS AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES —  
2 COORDINATION OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS. The bill requires the  
3 members of the state board of regents, the presidents and  
4 provosts of each institution of higher education governed by  
5 the state board of regents, the chancellors and presidents  
6 of each community college, and the president of the board  
7 of directors of each community college to meet annually to  
8 coordinate academic programs in order to increase student  
9 outcomes and efficiencies for the state.