

House File 194 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 194
BY JACOBY

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to the membership of the board of regents and
- 2 including transition provisions.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 262.1, Code 2025, is amended to read as
2 follows:

3 **262.1 Membership.**

4 The state board of regents consists of nine members, eight of
5 whom shall be ~~selected from the state at large solely with regard~~
6 ~~to their qualifications and fitness to discharge the duties of~~
7 ~~the office~~ elected pursuant to section 262.3. The ninth member
8 shall be appointed by the elected members of the board and shall
9 be a student enrolled on a full-time basis in good standing
10 at either the graduate or undergraduate level at one of the
11 institutions listed in section 262.7, subsection 1, 2, or 3, at
12 the time of the member's appointment. ~~Not more than five members~~
13 ~~shall be of the same political party.~~ The elected members of the
14 state board of regents may, by a majority vote of those members,
15 remove or suspend the ninth member.

16 Sec. 2. Section 262.2, Code 2025, is amended to read as
17 follows:

18 **262.2 Appointment — term of office.**

19 ~~The members shall be appointed by the governor subject to~~
20 ~~confirmation by the senate. Prior to appointing the ninth member~~
21 ~~as specified in section 262.1, the governor shall consult with~~
22 ~~the appropriate student body government at the institution at~~
23 ~~which the proposed appointee is enrolled. The term of each~~
24 member of the board shall be for six years, except as provided in
25 section 262.3, unless the ninth member, appointed in accordance
26 with section 262.1, graduates or is no longer enrolled at an
27 institution of higher education under the board's control, at
28 which time the term of the ninth member shall expire one year
29 from the date on which the member graduates or is no longer
30 enrolled in an institution of higher education under the board's
31 control. However, if within that year the ninth member reenrolls
32 in any institution of higher education under the board's control
33 on a full-time basis and is a student in good standing at
34 either the graduate or undergraduate level, the term of the ninth
35 member shall continue in effect. ~~The terms of three members of~~

~~1 the board shall begin and expire in each odd-numbered year as
2 provided in section 69.19.~~

3 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. **262.3 Election of certain members —**
4 **vacancies.**

5 1. Of the eight elective members of the board, two shall
6 be elected by the registered voters of each of the three
7 congressional districts in which is located an institution of
8 higher learning governed by the board, one shall be elected from
9 the remaining congressional district, and one shall be elected
10 on a statewide basis. Members of the board shall be elected on
11 a nonpartisan basis at the regular school election under section
12 277.1 for staggered six-year terms, with terms commencing on the
13 first day of January that is not a Sunday or holiday following
14 their election. Any eligible elector who is a resident of this
15 state is entitled to elective membership on the board, except
16 that a member elected by the voters of a congressional district
17 must be a resident of that congressional district. A vacancy
18 in an elected position on the board shall be filled by the
19 chairperson of the board for the unexpired balance of the term
20 as provided in section 69.12 until the next succeeding regular
21 election for school districts.

22 2. a. At each regular school election, a successor shall
23 be chosen for each board member whose term will expire in the
24 succeeding January. Nominations of candidates shall be made
25 by petition in accordance with chapter 45. Nominations of
26 candidates for the statewide elected member shall be signed by
27 at least three hundred eligible electors residing in the state.
28 Nominations of all other candidates shall be signed by at least
29 three hundred eligible electors residing in the congressional
30 district. The petition form shall be furnished by the county
31 commissioner of elections. Every candidate shall file with the
32 nomination papers an affidavit stating the candidate's name, the
33 candidate's residence, that the person is a candidate and is
34 eligible for board membership, and that if elected the candidate
35 will qualify for the office. The affidavit shall also state that

1 the candidate is aware that the candidate is disqualified from
2 holding office if the candidate has been convicted of an infamous
3 crime and the candidate's rights have not been restored by the
4 governor or by the president of the United States.

5 b. The signed petitions shall be filed with the county
6 commissioner of elections not later than 5:00 p.m. on the
7 sixty-ninth day before the regular election held pursuant to
8 section 277.1. The votes for board membership shall be canvassed
9 in the same manner as the votes for state officers, and
10 the returns shall be certified to the state commissioner of
11 elections. A plurality is sufficient to elect members, and a
12 primary election for the office shall not be held.

13 3. As used in this section, "congressional district" means
14 those districts established following the 2020 federal decennial
15 census.

16 Sec. 4. REPEAL. Sections 262.4, 262.5, and 262.6, Code 2025,
17 are repealed.

18 Sec. 5. TRANSITION PROVISIONS.

19 1. Membership terms of all regents board members on the
20 effective date of this Act shall expire on December 31, 2027.

21 2. a. At the regular election for school districts to be
22 held in 2027, and at the regular election for school districts
23 immediately preceding the expiration of the member's term, one
24 member each shall be elected as follows:

25 (1) Statewide, for a full term.

26 (2) By the registered voters of the third congressional
27 district, for a full term.

28 (3) By the registered voters of the first congressional
29 district, for an initial four-year term.

30 (4) By the registered voters of the second congressional
31 district, for an initial four-year term.

32 (5) By the registered voters of the fourth congressional
33 district, for an initial four-year term.

34 (6) By the registered voters of the first congressional
35 district, for an initial two-year term.

1 (7) By the registered voters of the second congressional
2 district, for an initial two-year term.

3 (8) By the registered voters of the fourth congressional
4 district, for an initial two-year term.

5 EXPLANATION

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

8 This bill relates to the membership of the board of regents.
9 Under current law, there are nine members of the board of regents
10 (board) with one student member and with all members being
11 appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by the senate.

12 The bill requires that eight members of the board be elected
13 on a nonpartisan basis at the regular school election and
14 requires that a ninth member be a student appointed by the
15 elective members of the board. The bill requires that one
16 elective member be elected statewide and that one elective member
17 be elected by the third congressional district. The bill also
18 requires that two members be elected by each of the other three
19 congressional districts, in which are located an institution of
20 higher learning governed by the board. The bill requires that
21 board member terms are staggered.

22 The bill requires that a member of the board be an eligible
23 elector of the state and requires that a member elected by
24 the voters of a congressional district be a resident of that
25 congressional district. The bill provides that filling a
26 vacancy in elective membership on the board shall be conducted
27 in accordance with current Code section 69.12. The bill
28 also establishes elections administration provisions for the
29 nomination and election of board members.

30 The bill provides transition provisions for the regular
31 election for school districts scheduled for 2027.