

House File 2487 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2487
BY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 542)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act concerning restrictions on certain activities relating
2 to diversity, equity, inclusion, and critical race theory by
3 state entities and public institutions of higher education.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 19.3, subsection 1, Code 2026, is amended
2 to read as follows:

3 1. a. Any person may notify the attorney general of a state
4 entity's potential violation of section 19.2. The attorney
5 general may bring an action against a state entity for a writ of
6 mandamus to compel the state entity to comply with section 19.2.

7 b. The attorney general may conduct an inquiry or
8 investigation regarding a violation of this chapter. As part
9 of that inquiry or investigation, and in accordance with the
10 Iowa rules of civil procedure, the attorney general may issue a
11 subpoena for the production of records, including but not limited
12 to books, accounts, papers, correspondence, memoranda, files, or
13 other documents in a print or electronic format. If a person
14 refuses compliance, the attorney general may seek enforcement by
15 the district court.

16 c. Notwithstanding section 13.7, the attorney general may
17 contract with special counsel to assist in either or both the
18 investigation and legal action against a state entity for an
19 alleged violation of this chapter. The state entity shall
20 reimburse the attorney general for the costs, expenses, and fees
21 incurred by special counsel.

22 Sec. 2. Section 261J.5, Code 2026, is amended to read as
23 follows:

24 **261J.5 Enforcement.**

25 1. Any person may notify the attorney general of a public
26 institution of higher education's potential violation of section
27 261J.2. The attorney general may bring an action against a
28 public institution of higher education for a writ of mandamus to
29 compel the public institution of higher education to comply with
30 section 261J.2.

31 2. The attorney general may conduct an inquiry or
32 investigation regarding a violation of this chapter. As part
33 of that inquiry or investigation, and in accordance with the
34 Iowa rules of civil procedure, the attorney general may issue a
35 subpoena for the production of records, including but not limited

1 to books, accounts, papers, correspondence, memoranda, files, or
2 other documents in a print or electronic format. If a person
3 refuses compliance, the attorney general may seek enforcement by
4 the district court.

5 3. Notwithstanding section 13.7, the attorney general may
6 contract with special counsel to assist in either or both the
7 investigation and legal action against a public institution of
8 higher education for an alleged violation of this chapter.
9 The public institution of higher education shall reimburse the
10 attorney general for the costs, expenses, and fees incurred by
11 special counsel.

12 Sec. 3. REVIEW OF UNDERGRADUATE GENERAL EDUCATION
13 REQUIREMENTS AND CORE CURRICULA. By the semester beginning fall
14 2028, the state board of regents shall conduct a review of all
15 undergraduate general education requirements and core curricula
16 at institutions of higher education governed by the board. For
17 the review, the board shall direct the institutions to review and
18 identify any required courses or course requirements that include
19 diversity, equity, inclusion, and critical race theory-related
20 content. The board in its discretion shall direct an institution
21 to eliminate such a course or course requirement.

22 Sec. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF POLICIES — DATE. The board of
23 regents shall establish all policies required by this Act no
24 later than December 31, 2026.

25 EXPLANATION

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

28 This bill concerns restrictions on certain activities relating
29 to diversity, equity, inclusion, and critical race theory by
30 state entities and public institutions of higher education.

31 The bill authorizes the attorney general to conduct an inquiry
32 or investigation regarding a violation of current law prohibiting
33 regents institutions, community colleges, and state entities,
34 defined under current law to include local government entities,
35 from engaging in certain practices regarding diversity, equity,

1 and inclusion. The attorney general is authorized to issue
2 subpoenas, seek enforcement in district court, and contract with
3 special counsel. The bill requires reimbursement of the attorney
4 general by the institution, community college, or state entity
5 for the costs, expenses, and fees incurred by special counsel.
6 The bill requires the state board of regents, by the semester
7 beginning fall 2028, to conduct a review of all undergraduate
8 general education requirements and core curricula at regents
9 institutions. For the review, the board shall direct the
10 institutions to review and identify any required courses or
11 course requirements that include diversity, equity, inclusion,
12 and critical race theory-related content. The board in its
13 discretion shall direct an institution to eliminate such a course
14 or course requirement. The bill requires the board to establish
15 all policies required by the bill no later than December 31,
16 2026.