

House File 270 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 270
BY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 55)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act requiring regents institutions to make certain course
2 syllabus information available to the public online and
3 including effective date provisions.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act shall be known and may be
2 cited as the "Syllabus Transparency Act".

3 Sec. 2. Section 262.9, Code 2025, is amended by adding the
4 following new subsection:

5 NEW SUBSECTION. 39. a. Direct each institution of higher
6 learning under its control to make available to the public on
7 the institution's internet site a syllabus for each undergraduate
8 course offered for credit by the institution. The syllabus shall
9 include all of the following:

10 (1) The name of the instructor.

11 (2) A brief description of each major course requirement,
12 including each major assignment and examination.

13 (3) Any required or recommended reading material.

14 b. The syllabus information made available to the public
15 pursuant to paragraph "a" shall be subject to the following
16 requirements:

17 (1) The information shall be accessible from the
18 institution's internet site home page by use of no more than five
19 links.

20 (2) The information shall be searchable by keywords and
21 phrases.

22 (3) The information shall be accessible to the public without
23 requiring registration or use of a user name, password, or other
24 user identification.

25 (4) The information shall be made available no later than
26 the first day of classes for the semester or other academic term
27 during which the section of the course is offered.

28 (5) The information shall be updated as soon as practicable
29 after the information changes.

30 (6) The information shall remain available on the
31 institution's internet site for at least one year after the
32 date on which the institution initially made the information
33 available.

34 c. This subsection does not apply to an undergraduate course
35 that does not regularly meet in a classroom setting, including

1 but not limited to an internship, independent study program, or
2 study abroad program.

3 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect December 31,
4 2025.

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 requires a regents institution to make available
9 to the public on the institution's internet site a syllabus for
10 each undergraduate course offered for credit by the institution.
11 The syllabus shall include the name of the instructor, a brief
12 description of each major course requirement, and any required or
13 recommended reading material.

14 The bill provides accessibility requirements and timelines for
15 making such syllabus information available. The bill does not
16 apply to an undergraduate course that does not regularly meet in
17 a classroom setting.

18 The bill takes effect December 31, 2025.