

House File 296 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 296

BY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 59)

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act providing for public availability of certain financial
- 2 information of regents institutions and including effective
- 3 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 "College Finance Transparency Act".

3 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. **262.29 Financial information of**
4 **institutions — public availability.**

5 1. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise
6 requires:

7 a. "Administrative unit" includes all schools, departments,
8 offices, programs, and other administrative subdivisions of an
9 institution.

10 b. "Full-time faculty instruction" means instruction expenses
11 for instructional faculty who teach at least nine semester credit
12 hours each academic year.

13 c. "Institution" means an institution of higher education
14 under the control of the state board of regents.

15 d. "Instruction" means the same expenses categorized as
16 instruction and reported to the federal integrated postsecondary
17 education data system pursuant to the institution's program
18 participation agreement with the federal department of
19 education's office of postsecondary education.

20 2. Each institution shall make available to the public on the
21 institution's internet site detailed information on all of the
22 following:

23 a. All budgets of the institution totaling fifty thousand
24 dollars or more in value.

25 b. All expenditures of the institution of fifty thousand
26 dollars or more.

27 c. All vendors used by the institution that provide fifty
28 thousand dollars or more of goods or services.

29 d. All written contracts entered into by the institution.

30 3. The information required by subsection 2 shall be subject
31 to the following requirements:

32 a. The information shall be accessible from the institution's
33 internet site home page by use of no more than three links.

34 b. The information shall be searchable by keywords and
35 phrases.

1 c. The information shall be accessible to the public without
2 requiring registration or use of a user name, password, or other
3 user identification.

4 d. The information shall be made available no later than the
5 first day of classes for the semester or other academic term
6 during which the section of the course is offered.

7 e. The information shall be updated on a regular basis to
8 include information for the current fiscal year.

9 f. The information shall remain available on the
10 institution's internet site for at least ten years after the
11 date on which the institution initially made the information
12 available.

13 4. The information required to be made available pursuant to
14 subsection 2 shall include all of the following:

15 a. An annual budget that includes anticipated revenues and
16 expenditures for each administrative unit of the institution.

17 b. A report comparing each budget with actual expenditures
18 that shows the budget, actual revenue and expense transactions,
19 revenue and expense commitments, and budget balance information
20 for each administrative unit.

21 c. A budgeted salary report that shows the name, title,
22 classifications, full-time equivalent percentage, annual salary,
23 funding sources, and percentage of salary for each budget for
24 full-time and part-time positions.

25 d. A statement indicating whether an individual expenditure
26 has contributed to diversity, equity, and inclusion; social
27 justice; sustainability; or any similar commitment.

28 e. Discrete sections that collate all individual expenditures
29 for each of the categories of diversity, equity, and inclusion;
30 social justice; sustainability; or any similar commitment, and
31 that include the aggregate expenditures of the institution as a
32 whole, and the aggregate expenditures of each administrative unit
33 for the institution, for each of these categories.

34 f. Month-end financial statements that show the current
35 status of project budgets, expenditures, commitments, and

1 balances.

2 g. A calculation of the proportion of the institution's total
3 expenditures devoted to full-time faculty instruction, excluding
4 expenditures and instruction at the university of Iowa hospitals
5 and clinics.

6 h. (1) A transaction register that contains a complete
7 record of all funds expended, from any source and for any
8 purpose. The register shall include all of the following for
9 each expenditure:

10 (a) The transaction amount.

11 (b) The name of the individual or entity receiving payment.

12 (c) The identification number of the transaction, if
13 applicable.

14 (d) A description of the expenditure, including the source of
15 funds, a category title, and an object title for the expenditure.

16 (2) The register shall include all reimbursements for
17 expenses.

18 (3) The register shall include an entry for salary, wages, or
19 other compensation paid to individual employees involved in the
20 expenditure.

21 (4) The register shall be accompanied by a complete
22 explanation of any codes or acronyms used to identify an
23 expenditure or an individual or entity receiving payment.

24 (5) The register shall not include an individual's social
25 security number.

26 5. Any information that is expressly prohibited from public
27 disclosure by federal or state law, regulation, or rule shall
28 be redacted from any information made available to the public
29 pursuant to subsection 2.

30 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect December 1,
31 2025.

32 EXPLANATION

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

35 This bill requires each institution of higher education under

1 the control of the state board of regents to make available
2 to the public on the institution's internet site detailed
3 information on budgets of the institution totaling \$50,000 or
4 more in value, expenditures of the institution of \$50,000 or
5 more, vendors used by the institution that provide \$50,000 or
6 more of goods or services, and written contracts entered into by
7 the institution. The bill provides accessibility requirements
8 and timelines for making such information available.

9 The bill specifies matters that must be included in the
10 information. Among such matters are an annual budget for each
11 administrative unit of the institution; a budgeted salary report;
12 information on expenditures for diversity, equity, and inclusion,
13 and similar commitments; and a transaction register that contains
14 a complete record of all funds expended.

15 Any information that is expressly prohibited from public
16 disclosure by federal or state law, regulation, or rule shall
17 be redacted from any information made available to the public
18 pursuant to the bill.

19 The bill takes effect December 1, 2025.