

**House Study Bill 51 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON HIGHER  
EDUCATION BILL BY CHAIRPERSON  
COLLINS)

**A BILL FOR**

- 1 An Act relating to tuition, degree programs, employment, and  
2 related matters pertaining to students enrolled at regents  
3 institutions.  
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 Affordability Act".

3 Sec. 2. Section 262.9, subsection 19, paragraph a, Code 2025,  
4 is amended to read as follows:

5 a. Not less than thirty days prior to action by the board  
6 on any proposal to increase tuition, fees, or charges at one  
7 or more of the institutions of higher education under its  
8 control, send written notification of the amount of the proposed  
9 increase including a copy of the proposed tuition increase  
10 docket memorandum prepared for its consideration to the presiding  
11 officers of the student government organization of the affected  
12 institutions. The final decision on an increase in tuition or  
13 mandatory fees charged to all students at an institution for  
14 a fiscal year shall be made at a regular meeting and shall be  
15 reflected in a final docket memorandum that states the estimated  
16 total cost of attending each of the institutions of higher  
17 education under the board's control. The regular meeting shall  
18 be held in Ames, Cedar Falls, or Iowa City and shall not be  
19 held during a period in which classes have been suspended for  
20 university holiday or break. The final decision on an increase  
21 in tuition charged to all students at an institution for a fiscal  
22 year shall be made at a regular meeting held no later than  
23 December 31 of the previous fiscal year.

24 Sec. 3. Section 262.9, subsection 19, Code 2025, is amended  
25 by adding the following new paragraph:

26 NEW PARAGRAPH. d. Limit any annual increase in tuition or  
27 mandatory fees charged for a fiscal year to all students at an  
28 institution who are in-state residents to no more than three  
29 percent.

30 Sec. 4. Section 262.9, Code 2025, is amended by adding the  
31 following new subsections:

32 NEW SUBSECTION. 39. Direct each institution of higher  
33 education governed by the board to establish a policy whereby the  
34 tuition amount charged to students classified as residents that  
35 is charged to an undergraduate student in the student's first

1 academic year of enrollment, commencing with a first academic  
2 year of enrollment beginning in or after 2026, will not increase  
3 in the student's subsequent academic years of undergraduate  
4 enrollment. For a student who begins their first academic year  
5 of undergraduate enrollment with sufficient academic transfer  
6 credits that the student can complete a baccalaureate degree  
7 program in less than four academic years, this requirement  
8 shall only apply for the number of academic years necessary for  
9 the student to complete a degree program with their academic  
10 transfer credits, rounded up. This subsection does not apply  
11 to any academic years beyond three consecutive academic years of  
12 undergraduate enrollment after a student's first academic year of  
13 enrollment.

14 NEW SUBSECTION. 40. Direct each institution of higher  
15 education governed by the board to offer at least one  
16 baccalaureate degree program that can be completed in three years  
17 by the academic year beginning in 2027.

18 NEW SUBSECTION. 41. a. Direct each institution of higher  
19 education governed by the board to establish, no later than  
20 the academic year beginning in 2027, a work plus program in  
21 accordance with this subsection. The program shall allow  
22 an undergraduate student to engage in part-time employment  
23 while pursuing a baccalaureate degree with the employer being  
24 financially responsible for tuition and mandatory fees during  
25 semesters of employment.

26 b. A student and employer participating in the program shall  
27 sign an agreement, in a form established by the institution, to  
28 comply with the requirements of this subsection. The agreement  
29 must provide the rights and responsibilities of the student and  
30 employer under the program. The agreement must include but not  
31 be limited to the following requirements:

32 (1) The student shall perform part-time work for the employer  
33 for at least one semester while enrolled at the institution.

34 (2) The employer shall pay the student for such work as  
35 provided in chapter 91D.

1 (3) The employer shall be financially responsible for all  
2 tuition and mandatory fees owed by the student during semesters  
3 in which the student is employed under the program.

4 c. Each institution shall establish a registration process  
5 for employers participating in the program.

6 d. The board may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A to  
7 administer this subsection.

8 EXPLANATION

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

11 This bill relates to tuition, degree programs, employment,  
12 and related matters pertaining to students enrolled at regents  
13 institutions.

14 The bill provides that the final decision by the state board  
15 of regents (board) on an increase in tuition charged to all  
16 students at an institution for a fiscal year shall be made at  
17 a regular meeting of the board held no later than December 31 of  
18 the previous fiscal year.

19 The bill requires the board to limit any annual increase  
20 in tuition or mandatory fees charged for a fiscal year to all  
21 students at a regents institution who are in-state residents to  
22 no more than 3 percent.

23 The bill requires the board to direct each regents institution  
24 to establish a policy whereby the tuition amount charged  
25 to students classified as residents that is charged to an  
26 undergraduate student in the student's first academic year of  
27 enrollment will not increase in the student's subsequent academic  
28 years of undergraduate enrollment. This requirement applies to  
29 a student's first academic year of enrollment that begins in or  
30 after 2026. The bill provides limitations on this requirement.

31 The bill requires the board to direct each regents institution  
32 to offer at least one baccalaureate degree program that can be  
33 completed in three years by the academic year beginning in 2027.

34 The bill requires the board to direct each regents institution  
35 to establish a work plus program no later than the academic year

1 beginning in 2027. The program shall allow an undergraduate  
2 student to engage in part-time employment while pursuing  
3 a baccalaureate degree with the employer being financially  
4 responsible for tuition and mandatory fees during semesters of  
5 employment. A student and employer participating in the program  
6 must sign an agreement, in a form established by the regents  
7 institution, to comply with the requirements of the program which  
8 provides the rights and responsibilities of both parties. The  
9 agreement must at minimum provide for the student to perform  
10 part-time work for the employer for at least one semester while  
11 enrolled at the institution, for the employer to pay the student  
12 the state or federal minimum wage, and for the employer to be  
13 financially responsible for all tuition and mandatory fees owed  
14 by the student during semesters in which the student is employed.  
15 The bill requires each institution to establish a registration  
16 process for employers participating in the program.