

House Study Bill 59 - Introduced

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

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 instructional expenses of the
16 colleges, schools, departments, and other instructional divisions
17 of the institution for credit activities, including faculty
18 salary and benefits. "Instruction" does not include academic
19 administration, community education, departmental research,
20 financial aid, general administration, institutional support,
21 noncredit activities, overhead, preparatory and adult basic
22 education, public service, remedial education, research,
23 service-learning, student services, or tutorial instruction.

24 2. Each institution shall make available to the public on the
25 institution's internet site detailed information on all of the
26 following:

27 a. All budgets of the institution totaling one thousand
28 dollars or more in value.

29 b. All expenditures of the institution of one thousand
30 dollars or more.

31 c. All vendors used by the institution that provide one
32 thousand dollars or more of goods or services.

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

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

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

3 b. The information shall be searchable by keywords and
4 phrases.

5 c. The information shall be accessible to the public without
6 requiring registration or use of a user name, password, or other
7 user identification.

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

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

13 f. The information shall remain available on the
14 institution's internet site for at least ten years after the
15 date on which the institution initially made the information
16 available.

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

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

21 b. A report comparing each budget with actual expenditures
22 that shows the budget, actual revenue and expense transactions,
23 revenue and expense commitments, and budget balance information
24 for each administrative unit.

25 c. A budgeted salary report that shows the name, title,
26 classifications, full-time equivalent percentage, annual salary,
27 funding sources, and percentage of salary for each budget for
28 full-time and part-time positions.

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

32 e. Discrete sections that collate all individual expenditures
33 for each of the categories of diversity, equity, and inclusion;
34 social justice; sustainability; or any similar commitment, and
35 that include the aggregate expenditures of the institution as a

1 whole, and the aggregate expenditures of each administrative unit
2 for the institution, for each of these categories.

3 *f.* Month-end financial statements that show the current
4 status of project budgets, expenditures, commitments, and
5 balances.

6 *g.* A calculation of the proportion of the institution's
7 total nonhospital expenditures devoted to full-time faculty
8 instruction.

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

13 (a) The transaction amount.

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

15 (c) The identification number of the transaction, if
16 applicable.

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

19 (2) The register shall include all reimbursements for
20 expenses.

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

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

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

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

33 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect December 1,
34 2025.

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EXPLANATION

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

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

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

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

22 The bill takes effect December 1, 2025.