

House Study Bill 60 - Introduced

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act prohibiting private institutions of higher education
2 that participate in the Iowa tuition grant program from
3 establishing diversity, equity, and inclusion offices.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 256.183, subsection 1, unnumbered
2 paragraph 1, Code 2025, is amended to read as follows:

3 "Accredited private institution" means an institution of
4 higher learning located in Iowa which is operated privately
5 and not controlled or administered by any state agency or
6 any subdivision of the state and which meets the criteria in
7 paragraphs "a" and "b" and all of the criteria in paragraphs "d"
8 through "j" "k", except that institutions defined in paragraph
9 "c" of this subsection are exempt from the requirements of
10 paragraphs "a" and "b":

11 Sec. 2. Section 256.183, subsection 1, Code 2025, is amended
12 by adding the following new paragraph:

13 NEW PARAGRAPH. k. Adopt a policy for compliance with chapter
14 261K.

15 Sec. 3. Section 256.183, subsection 3, Code 2025, is amended
16 to read as follows:

17 3. "Eligible institution" means an institution of higher
18 learning located in Iowa which is operated privately and not
19 controlled or administered by any state agency or any subdivision
20 of the state, which is not exempt from taxation under section
21 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and which meets all of
22 the criteria in subsection 1, paragraphs "d" through "j" "k",
23 and is a school of barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences
24 licensed under chapter 157 and is accredited by a national
25 accrediting agency recognized by the United States department of
26 education. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017, such
27 a school of barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences shall
28 provide a matching aggregate amount of institutional financial
29 aid equal to at least seventy-five percent of the amount received
30 by the institution's students for Iowa tuition grant assistance
31 under section 256.191. For the fiscal year beginning July 1,
32 2018, the school of barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences
33 shall provide a matching aggregate amount of institutional
34 financial aid equal to at least eighty-five percent of the amount
35 received in that fiscal year. Commencing with the fiscal year

1 beginning July 1, 2019, and each succeeding fiscal year, the
2 matching aggregate amount of institutional financial aid shall
3 be at least equal to the match provided by eligible institutions
4 under section 261.9, subsection 3, paragraph "a", Code 2023.

5 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. **261K.1 Definitions.**

6 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise
7 requires:

8 1. "Department" means the department of education.

9 2. "Diversity, equity, and inclusion" means the same as
10 defined in section 261J.1, as enacted by 2024 Iowa Acts,
11 ch. 1152, §31.

12 3. "Diversity, equity, and inclusion office" means the same
13 as defined in section 261J.1, as enacted by 2024 Iowa Acts,
14 ch. 1152, §31.

15 4. "Private institution of higher education" means an
16 accredited private institution as defined in section 256.183 or
17 an eligible institution as defined in section 256.183.

18 Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. **261K.2 Diversity, equity, and
19 inclusion office prohibited.**

20 1. A private institution of higher education shall not,
21 except as otherwise provided by federal or state law or
22 accreditation standards, establish, sustain, support, or staff a
23 diversity, equity, and inclusion office.

24 2. Subsection 1 shall not be construed to cover or affect a
25 public institution of higher education's funding of any of the
26 following:

27 a. Academic course instruction.

28 b. Research or creative works by the public institution
29 of higher education's students, faculty, or other research
30 personnel, and the dissemination of such research or creative
31 works.

32 c. Activities of registered student organizations.

33 d. Arrangements for guest speakers and performers with
34 short-term engagements.

35 e. Mental or physical health services provided by licensed

1 professionals.

2 3. Subsection 1 shall not be construed as prohibiting bona
3 fide qualifications based on sex that are reasonably necessary to
4 the normal operation of private higher education.

5 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. **261K.3 Enforcement.**

6 1. Any person may report a private institution of higher
7 education's potential violation of section 261K.2 to the attorney
8 general. The attorney general shall provide notice of such
9 report to the department and the institution within fifteen
10 days. No later than thirty days after receiving such notice, the
11 institution shall do one of the following:

12 a. Correct the violation and provide documentation of the
13 correction to the attorney general and the department.

14 b. Provide documentation to the attorney general and the
15 department demonstrating that the action of the institution upon
16 which the report was based was not a violation of section 261K.2.

17 2. If, upon the conclusion of the thirty-day period provided
18 in subsection 1, the institution has not complied with subsection
19 1, paragraph "a", or provided documentation under subsection
20 1, paragraph "b", that demonstrates to the satisfaction of the
21 attorney general that a violation of section 261K.2 did not
22 occur, the institution shall be ineligible to participate in the
23 tuition grant program under chapter 256, subchapter VII, part 4,
24 subpart B, as of the next academic year beginning thereafter.
25 When either action is carried out by the institution, eligibility
26 shall be restored as of the next academic year beginning after
27 such action is carried out. The attorney general shall notify
28 the college student aid commission to this effect.

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EXPLANATION

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The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with

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the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

32 This bill prohibits a private institution of higher education,
33 as defined in the bill, from establishing, sustaining,
34 supporting, or staffing a diversity, equity, and inclusion
35 office, as defined in the bill. The prohibition does not apply

1 if otherwise provided by federal or state law or accreditation
2 standards. The bill specifies activities that the bill shall not
3 be construed to prohibit.

4 The bill authorizes any person to report a private institution
5 of higher education's potential violation of the requirements of
6 the bill to the attorney general, who shall provide notice of
7 such report to the department of education and the institution
8 within 15 days. No later than 30 days after receiving such
9 notice, the institution is required to take one of two actions.

10 The institution shall either correct the violation and provide
11 documentation of the correction to the attorney general and the
12 department or provide documentation to the attorney general and
13 the department demonstrating that the action of the institution
14 upon which the report was based was not a violation.

15 If within the 30-day period the institution has not corrected
16 the violation or provided documentation that demonstrates to the
17 satisfaction of the attorney general that a violation did not
18 occur, the institution shall be ineligible to participate in
19 the Iowa tuition grant program as of the next academic year
20 beginning thereafter. When either action is carried out by
21 the institution, eligibility shall be restored as of the next
22 academic year beginning after such action is carried out.