

Senate File 282 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 282
BY GREEN

(COMPANION TO HF 269 BY COMMITTEE
ON HIGHER EDUCATION)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act prohibiting certain requirements for students and
2 faculty at regents institutions relating to diversity,
3 equity, inclusion, and critical race theory and including
4 applicability provisions.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act shall be known and may be
2 cited as the "Freedom from Indoctrination Act".

3 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. **261K.1 Definitions.**

4 For purposes of this chapter, unless the context otherwise
5 requires:

6 1. "Board" means the state board of regents.

7 2. "Constrain" means failure by a public institution of
8 higher education during any semester to provide a sufficient
9 number of open seats in alternative courses for a student to
10 complete or progress toward completion of degree or program
11 requirements.

12 3. "Diversity, equity, inclusion, and critical race
13 theory-related content" means content that does one or more of
14 the following:

15 a. Relates any of the following topics to contemporary
16 American society: critical theory, systemic racism,
17 institutional racism, anti-racism, microaggressions, systemic
18 bias, implicit bias, unconscious bias, intersectionality, social
19 justice, cultural competence, allyship, race-based reparations,
20 race-based privilege, race or gender-based diversity, race or
21 gender-based equity, or race or gender-based inclusion.

22 b. Promotes the idea that racially neutral or colorblind
23 laws, policies, or institutions perpetuate oppression; injustice;
24 race-based privilege, including white supremacy or white
25 privilege; or inequity by failing to actively differentiate on
26 the basis of race, sex, or gender.

27 c. Promotes the differential treatment of any individual or
28 groups of individuals based on race or ethnicity in contemporary
29 American society.

30 d. Promotes the idea that a student is biased on account of
31 the student's race or sex.

32 4. "Diversity, equity, inclusion, and critical race
33 theory-related course" means any course for which the course
34 description, course overview, course objectives, proposed student
35 learning outcomes, written examinations, or written or oral

1 assignments for which the student will receive a grade, includes
2 diversity, equity, inclusion, and critical race theory-related
3 content.

4 5. *"Diversity, equity, inclusion, and critical race theory*
5 *practices"* means any requirement or guidance that a course
6 instructor include or curate materials on the basis of the race,
7 sex, or gender identity of an author or authors. *"Diversity,*
8 *equity, inclusion, and critical race theory practices"* also
9 means participating in any workshop, training, seminar, or
10 professional development on any diversity, equity, inclusion,
11 and critical race theory-related content. *"Diversity, equity,*
12 *inclusion, and critical race theory practices"* does not include
13 any programming explicitly required by the public institution
14 of higher education's legal obligations to comply with Tit. IX
15 of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, the Americans
16 with Disabilities Act, as amended, the Age Discrimination in
17 Employment Act, as amended, Tit. VI of the Civil Rights Act of
18 1964, or an applicable court order.

19 6. *"Public institution of higher education"* means an
20 institution of higher learning governed by the board.

21 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. **261K.2 Limitation on academic**
22 **requirements.**

23 The board shall establish a policy that ensures that public
24 institutions of higher education do not require or constrain
25 students to enroll in a diversity, equity, inclusion, and
26 critical race theory-related course in order to satisfy the
27 requirements of any academic degree program, including general
28 education, major, minor, or certificate requirements, except as
29 provided in section 261K.4.

30 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. **261K.3 Limitation on faculty**
31 **requirements.**

32 A public institution of higher education, or any employee,
33 appointee, or committee acting on its behalf, shall not require,
34 solicit, or incentivize faculty of the institution to apply or
35 participate in diversity, equity, inclusion, and critical race

1 theory practices or include diversity, equity, inclusion, and
2 critical race theory-related content in any course as a condition
3 of approval, designation, or listing as part of any academic
4 degree program, including general education; major, minor, or
5 certificate requirements; or as a condition of consideration in
6 any faculty member's performance assessment, promotion, tenure,
7 salary adjustment, or any other incentive, except as provided in
8 section 261K.4.

9 Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. **261K.4 Exemptions.**

10 The board may grant an exemption from the requirements of
11 sections 261K.2 and 261K.3 for the academic degree program
12 requirements of any major, minor, certificate, or academic unit
13 if the title thereof clearly establishes its course of study
14 as primarily focused on racial, ethnic, or gender studies.
15 However, a student shall not be required or constrained to
16 enroll in any such program or course in order to satisfy the
17 requirements of any other academic degree program, including
18 general education requirements, or any other major, minor, or
19 certificate requirements.

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

21 Any person may notify the attorney general of a potential
22 violation of this chapter by a public institution of higher
23 education. The attorney general may bring an action against a
24 public institution of higher education for a writ of mandamus to
25 compel the institution, or any employee, appointee, or committee
26 acting on its behalf, to comply with this chapter.

27 Sec. 7. NEW SECTION. **261K.6 Construction.**

28 This chapter shall not be construed to limit the academic
29 freedom of any individual course instructor to direct the
30 instruction within the instructor's own course or to limit the
31 free discussion of ideas in a classroom setting.

32 Sec. 8. APPLICABILITY. This Act applies to academic years at
33 public institutions of higher education, as defined in section
34 261K.1, as enacted by this Act, beginning on or after July 1,
35 2026.

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EXPLANATION

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

This bill prohibits certain requirements for students and faculty at regents institutions relating to diversity, equity, inclusion, and critical race theory.

The bill requires the state board of regents to establish a policy that ensures that regents institutions do not require or constrain students to enroll in a diversity, equity, inclusion, and critical race theory-related course, as defined in the bill, in order to satisfy the requirements of any academic degree program, including general education, major, minor, or certificate requirements.

The bill provides that a regents institution or any employee, appointee, or committee acting on its behalf, shall not require, solicit, or incentivize faculty of the institution to apply or participate in diversity, equity, inclusion, and critical race theory practices or include diversity, equity, inclusion, and critical race theory-related content, as defined in the bill, in any course as a condition of approval, designation, or listing as part of any academic degree program, including general education; major, minor, or certificate requirements; or as a condition of consideration in any faculty member's performance assessment, promotion, tenure, salary adjustment, or any other incentive.

The bill authorizes the board to grant an exemption from these provisions for the academic degree program requirements of any major, minor, certificate, or academic unit if the title thereof clearly establishes its course of study as primarily focused on racial, ethnic, or gender studies. However, a student shall not be required or constrained to enroll in any such program or course in order to satisfy the requirements of any other academic degree program, including general education requirements, or any other major, minor, or certificate requirements.

The bill authorizes any person to notify the attorney general of a potential violation of the requirements of the bill by a

1 regents institution. The attorney general may bring an action
2 against a regents institution for a writ of mandamus to compel
3 the institution, or any employee, appointee, or committee acting
4 on its behalf, to comply with the requirements of the bill.

5 The bill shall not be construed to limit the academic freedom
6 of any individual course instructor to direct the instruction
7 within the instructor's own course or to limit the free
8 discussion of ideas in a classroom setting.

9 The bill applies to academic years at public institutions of
10 higher education beginning on or after July 1, 2026.

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