

Senate File 519 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 519
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 127)

(COMPANION TO HF 437 BY COMMITTEE
ON HIGHER EDUCATION)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a school of intellectual freedom at the
2 university of Iowa.

3 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 "School of Intellectual Freedom Act".

3 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. **263C.1 Definitions.**

4 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise
5 requires:

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

7 2. "School" means the school of intellectual freedom
8 established by section 263C.2.

9 3. "University" means the state university of Iowa.

10 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. **263C.2 School of intellectual
11 freedom.**

12 1. A school of intellectual freedom is established as an
13 independent academic unit within the university. The school
14 shall be physically located in the college of liberal arts and
15 sciences.

16 2. The school shall conduct teaching and research in the
17 historical ideas, traditions, and texts that have shaped the
18 American constitutional order and society.

19 3. The board may name the school in accordance with any
20 philanthropic naming policies or practices of the board or
21 university.

22 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. **263C.3 Functions of the school.**

23 1. The school shall offer instruction in all of the following
24 subjects:

25 a. The texts and major debates that form the intellectual
26 foundation of free societies, especially that of the United
27 States.

28 b. The principles, ideals, and institutions of the American
29 constitutional order.

30 c. The foundations of responsible leadership and informed
31 citizenship.

32 2. The school shall offer university-wide programming related
33 to the values of free speech and civil discourse.

34 3. The school shall work to do all of the following:

35 a. Expand the intellectual diversity of the university's

1 academic community.

2 b. Foster civic engagement among university students and
3 faculty.

4 4. The school may offer courses; develop certificate, minor,
5 and major programs as well as graduate programs; and offer
6 degrees.

7 Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. **263C.4 Bylaws.**

8 The school shall establish bylaws governing the school subject
9 to the approval of the dean of the school. In addition to
10 any other bylaws established, the bylaws shall include all of
11 the following requirements, which shall take precedence over any
12 other requirements in the bylaws:

13 1. The school shall educate students by means of free, open,
14 and rigorous intellectual inquiry to seek the truth.

15 2. The school affirms its duty to equip students with the
16 skills, habits, and dispositions of mind they need to reach
17 their own informed conclusions on matters of social and political
18 importance.

19 3. The school affirms the value of intellectual diversity
20 in higher education and aspires to enhance the intellectual
21 diversity of the university.

22 4. The school affirms a commitment to create a community
23 dedicated to an ethic of civil and free inquiry, which respects
24 the intellectual freedom of each member, supports individual
25 capacities for growth, and welcomes the differences of opinion
26 that naturally exist in a public university community.

27 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. **263C.5 Funding — use.**

28 1. The school may accept and administer private and external
29 donations and gifts.

30 2. Any moneys appropriated to the school, and any private and
31 external donations to the school, shall be used only for the
32 direct operation of the school and shall not be used for any
33 indirect costs of the university.

34 Sec. 7. NEW SECTION. **263C.6 School faculty.**

35 The university shall employ at least five tenure-eligible

1 faculty members to provide instruction through the school.
2 Faculty members appointed to the school may hold joint
3 appointments to other academic units of the university. Faculty
4 members who are not appointed to the school shall have no
5 authority to approve, deny, or modify the terms of appointment
6 of faculty to the school.

7 Sec. 8. NEW SECTION. **263C.7 Academic council.**

8 1. No later than December 31, 2025, the board shall appoint
9 an academic council for the purpose of assisting in the selection
10 of a dean of the school pursuant to section 263C.8.

11 2. The board may appoint up to nine members to the council.
12 No more than one member of the council may be an employee of the
13 university. A majority of the members appointed to the council
14 shall constitute a quorum.

15 3. The board shall determine the initial length of each
16 member's term in accordance with this subsection. A majority
17 of the members initially appointed to the council shall serve
18 initial terms of four years. The remaining initially appointed
19 members shall serve initial terms of two years. The board
20 shall appoint new members to fill vacancies on the council in
21 accordance with this section.

22 Sec. 9. NEW SECTION. **263C.8 Appointment of dean.**

23 1. The academic council established under section 263C.7
24 shall conduct a nationwide search for candidates for the dean of
25 the school. The council shall strictly adhere to all relevant
26 state and federal laws in conducting the search. The council
27 shall submit a list of finalists for the position to the
28 board, which shall select and appoint the dean from the list.
29 Subsequent deans shall be chosen in the same manner.

30 2. The dean shall be eligible for tenure.

31 Sec. 10. NEW SECTION. **263C.9 Duties of dean.**

32 1. The dean of the school shall have the sole and exclusive
33 authority to manage the recruitment and hiring process and to
34 extend offers for employment for all faculty and staff of the
35 school and to terminate employment of all staff of the school.

1 2. The dean shall oversee, develop, and approve the
2 curriculum, courses, and programs of the school.

3 3. The dean shall have the sole and exclusive authority to
4 invite guest speakers to the university on behalf of the school.

5 4. The dean shall consult with the dean of the college of
6 liberal arts and sciences when carrying out the dean's duties.
7 However, the dean shall report directly to the president of the
8 university or a designee of the president.

9 Sec. 11. NEW SECTION. **263C.10 Annual report.**

10 The dean of the school shall submit an annual report to
11 the governor, the general assembly, and the board of regents
12 by December 31. The report shall provide a full account of
13 the school's achievements and shall identify any opportunities,
14 challenges, and obstacles in the development of the school.

15 EXPLANATION

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

18 This bill establishes a school of intellectual freedom
19 (school) as an independent academic unit within the university of
20 Iowa (university). The school shall be physically located in the
21 college of liberal arts and sciences. The school shall conduct
22 teaching and research in the historical ideas, traditions, and
23 texts that have shaped the American constitutional order and
24 society. The bill authorizes the state board of regents (board)
25 to name the school in accordance with any philanthropic naming
26 policies or practices of the board or university.

27 The bill provides functions of the school, including
28 instruction on specified subjects, offering university-wide
29 programming related to the values of free speech and civil
30 discourse, and working to expand the intellectual diversity of
31 the university's academic community and foster civic engagement
32 among university students and faculty. The bill authorizes the
33 school to offer courses; develop certificate, minor, and major
34 programs as well as graduate programs; and offer degrees.

35 The bill requires the school to establish bylaws and specifies

1 certain subjects that must be included in the bylaws.

2 The bill authorizes the school to accept and administer
3 private and external donations and gifts. The bill provides
4 that any moneys appropriated to the school, and any private and
5 external donations to the school, shall be used only for the
6 direct operation of the school and shall not be used for any
7 indirect costs of the university.

8 The bill requires the university to employ at least five
9 tenure-eligible faculty members to provide instruction through
10 the school. Faculty members appointed to the school may hold
11 joint appointments to other academic units. The bill provides
12 that faculty members who are not appointed to the school shall
13 have no authority to approve, deny, or modify the terms of
14 appointment of faculty to the school.

15 The bill requires the board to establish an academic council
16 no later than December 31, 2025, for the purpose of assisting
17 in the selection of a dean of the school. The bill provides
18 for membership and procedures of the council. The bill provides
19 that the board shall select and appoint the dean from a list of
20 finalists submitted by the council.

21 The bill provides duties of the dean, including recruitment,
22 hiring, and termination of employment of school faculty and
23 staff; overseeing, developing, and approving the curriculum,
24 courses, and programs of the school; and inviting guest speakers
25 to the university on behalf of the school. The bill requires
26 the dean to consult with the dean of the college of liberal
27 arts and sciences when carrying out the dean's duties. The bill
28 provides that the dean shall report directly to the president of
29 the university or a designee of the president.

30 The bill provides that the dean shall be eligible for tenure.

31 The bill requires the dean to submit an annual report to
32 the governor, the general assembly, and the board of regents
33 regarding the school.