

House File 269 - Reprinted

HOUSE FILE 269
BY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 53)

(As Amended and Passed by the House March 18, 2025)

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:

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. Promotes the idea that racially neutral or colorblind
16 laws, policies, or institutions perpetuate oppression; injustice;
17 race-based privilege, including white supremacy or white
18 privilege; or inequity by failing to actively differentiate on
19 the basis of race, sex, or gender.

20 b. Promotes the differential treatment of any individual or
21 groups of individuals based on race or ethnicity in contemporary
22 American society.

23 c. Promotes the idea that a student is biased on account of
24 the student's race or sex.

25 4. "*Diversity, equity, inclusion, and critical race*
26 *theory-related course*" means any course for which the course
27 description, course overview, course objectives, proposed student
28 learning outcomes, written examinations, or written or oral
29 assignments for which the student will receive a grade, includes
30 diversity, equity, inclusion, and critical race theory-related
31 content.

32 5. "*Diversity, equity, inclusion, and critical race theory*
33 *practices*" means any requirement or guidance that a course
34 instructor include or curate materials on the basis of the race,
35 sex, or gender identity of an author or authors. "*Diversity,*

1 equity, inclusion, and critical race theory practices" also
 2 means participating in any workshop, training, seminar, or
 3 professional development on any diversity, equity, inclusion,
 4 and critical race theory-related content. "Diversity, equity,
 5 inclusion, and critical race theory practices" does not include
 6 any programming explicitly required by the public institution
 7 of higher education's legal obligations to comply with Tit. IX
 8 of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, the Americans
 9 with Disabilities Act, as amended, the Age Discrimination in
 10 Employment Act, as amended, Tit. VI of the Civil Rights Act of
 11 1964, or an applicable court order.

12 6. "Public institution of higher education" means an
 13 institution of higher learning governed by the board.

14 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. **261K.2 Limitation on academic**
 15 **requirements.**

16 The board shall establish a policy that ensures that public
 17 institutions of higher education do not require or constrain
 18 students to enroll in a diversity, equity, inclusion, and
 19 critical race theory-related course in order to satisfy the
 20 requirements of any academic degree program, including general
 21 education, major, minor, or certificate requirements, except as
 22 provided in section 261K.4.

23 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. **261K.3 Limitation on faculty**
 24 **requirements.**

25 A public institution of higher education, or any employee,
 26 appointee, or committee acting on its behalf, shall not require,
 27 solicit, or incentivize faculty of the institution to apply or
 28 participate in diversity, equity, inclusion, and critical race
 29 theory practices or include diversity, equity, inclusion, and
 30 critical race theory-related content in any course as a condition
 31 of approval, designation, or listing as part of any academic
 32 degree program, including general education; major, minor, or
 33 certificate requirements; or as a condition of consideration in
 34 any faculty member's performance assessment, promotion, tenure,
 35 salary adjustment, or any other incentive, except as provided in

1 section 261K.4.

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

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

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

14 Any person may notify the attorney general of a potential
15 violation of this chapter by a public institution of higher
16 education. The attorney general may bring an action against a
17 public institution of higher education for a writ of mandamus to
18 compel the institution, or any employee, appointee, or committee
19 acting on its behalf, to comply with this chapter.

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

21 This chapter shall not be construed to limit the academic
22 freedom of any individual course instructor to direct the
23 instruction within the instructor's own course or to limit the
24 free discussion of ideas in a classroom setting.

25 Sec. 8. **APPLICABILITY.** This Act applies to academic years at
26 public institutions of higher education, as defined in section
27 261K.1, as enacted by this Act, beginning on or after July 1,
28 2026.