

Senate File 64 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 64
BY CHELGREN

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the teaching effectiveness and employment of
2 professors employed by institutions of higher learning under
3 the control of the state board of regents.

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

1 Section 1. Section 262.9, subsection 25, Code 2015, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 25. a. Require that any professor employed by an
4 institution of higher learning under the control of the board
5 teach at least one course offered for academic credit per
6 semester.

7 b. (1) Collaborate with the institutions of higher learning
8 under the board's control to develop and adopt the criteria
9 and a rating system the institutions shall use to establish
10 specific performance goals for professors and to evaluate the
11 performance of each professor employed by each institution
12 based on the evaluations completed by students pursuant to
13 this paragraph. Each institution of higher learning under
14 the board's control shall develop, and administer at the
15 end of each semester, an evaluation mechanism by which each
16 student enrolled in the institution shall assess the teaching
17 effectiveness of each professor who is providing instruction to
18 the student each semester. For a professor teaching multiple
19 classes in a semester, the institution shall compile an average
20 evaluation score. Scores are not cumulative. If a professor
21 fails to attain a minimum threshold of performance based on the
22 student evaluations used to assess the professor's teaching
23 effectiveness, in accordance with the criteria and rating
24 system adopted by the board, the institution shall terminate
25 the professor's employment regardless of tenure status or
26 contract.

27 (2) The names of the five professors who rank lowest on
28 their institution's evaluation for the semester, but who scored
29 above the minimum threshold of performance, shall be published
30 on the institution's internet site and the student body shall
31 be offered an opportunity to vote on the question of whether
32 any of the five professors will be retained as employees of the
33 institution. The employment of the professor receiving the
34 fewest votes approving retention shall be terminated by the
35 institution regardless of tenure status or contract.

1 c. Develop a policy requiring oral communication competence
2 of persons who provide instruction to students attending
3 institutions under the control of the board. The policy shall
4 include a student evaluation mechanism which requires student
5 evaluation of persons providing instruction on at least an
6 annual basis. However, the board shall establish criteria by
7 which an institution may discontinue annual evaluations of a
8 specific person providing instruction. The criteria shall
9 include receipt by the institution of two consecutive positive
10 annual evaluations from the majority of students evaluating the
11 person.

12 EXPLANATION

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

15 This bill directs the state board of regents to require that
16 any professor employed by an institution of higher learning
17 under the control of the board teach at least one course
18 offered for academic credit per semester. The board must
19 also collaborate with the institutions to develop and adopt
20 the criteria and rating system the institutions shall use to
21 establish specific performance goals for professors and to
22 evaluate the performance of each professor employed by each
23 institution based on the evaluations completed by students.

24 Each of the regents universities must develop, and
25 administer at the end of each semester, an evaluation mechanism
26 each student enrolled in the university must use to assess the
27 teaching effectiveness of each professor providing instruction
28 to the student each semester. For a professor teaching
29 multiple classes in a semester, the institution shall compile
30 an average evaluation score. Scores are not cumulative.

31 The names of the five professors who rank lowest on their
32 institution's evaluation for the semester, but who scored above
33 the minimum threshold of performance, shall be published on
34 the institution's internet site and the student body shall
35 be offered an opportunity to vote on the question of whether

1 any of the five professors will be retained as employees of
2 the institution. If a professor fails to attain a minimum
3 threshold of performance based on the evaluations or receives
4 the fewest votes approving retention, the institution shall
5 terminate the professor's employment regardless of tenure
6 status or contract.