

SENATE, No. 2252

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 16, 2020

Sponsored by:
Senator RONALD L. RICE
District 28 (Essex)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes certain requirements concerning search process for candidates for appointment to county college board of trustees and membership of trustee search committee.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning county college boards of trustees and amending
2 N.J.S.18A:64A-8.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. N.J.S.18A:64A-8 is amended to read as follows:

8 18A:64A-8. a. For each county college there shall be a board of
9 trustees, consisting of the county superintendent of schools and 10
10 persons, eight of whom shall be appointed by the appointing
11 authority of the county with the advice and consent of the board of
12 chosen freeholders, at least two of whom shall be women and two
13 of whom shall be appointed by the Governor, according to criteria
14 and for such initial terms as shall be established. However, no
15 trustee shall be appointed after July 1, 1994 who is an employee of
16 a constituent county. The president of the college shall serve as an
17 ex officio member of the board of trustees without vote. In
18 addition, the student body of each county college shall be entitled to
19 elect from the graduating class one representative to serve as a
20 member on the board of trustees for a term of one year commencing
21 at the first meeting of the board in July following graduation of his
22 class. The student representative may be granted voting rights by a
23 majority vote of the members of the board of trustees. If the board
24 of trustees grants the student representative voting rights and all
25 members of the board are present at the board meeting and there is a
26 tie vote, the chairman shall break the tie.

27 b. The appointing authority of the county shall establish a
28 trustee search committee of not less than five members who shall be
29 residents of the county and shall reflect the diversity of the county.
30 The appointing authority of the county shall specify a term of
31 appointment for members of the trustee search committee. The
32 members of the trustee search committee shall not be elected public
33 officials and shall not be eligible for appointment to the board of
34 trustees for a period of six months after their service on the trustee
35 search committee. Individuals with a potential conflict of interest
36 shall be ineligible to serve on the trustee search committee
37 including, but not limited to, trustees and employees of the county
38 college; employees of the appointing county; and immediate family
39 members or business associates of a county official, county
40 employee, county college trustee, or county college employee.

41 The trustee search committee shall nominate individuals for
42 consideration by the appointing authority of the county for
43 appointment to the board of trustees , and the appointing authority
44 of the county shall only appoint as trustees individuals who have
45 been nominated by the trustee search committee. The trustee search

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

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1 committee shall conduct a search process for trustee nominees
2 which complies with the following:

3 (1) The trustee search committee shall publish solicitations for
4 applicants for trustee appointments.

5 (2) The number of candidates to be recommended per
6 appointment shall be developed collaboratively with the appointing
7 authority of the county.

8 (3) The trustee search committee shall adopt and transmit a
9 resolution to the appointing authority of the county, nominating
10 qualified individuals for consideration for appointment to the board
11 of trustees. The nominating resolution shall be available to the
12 public upon receipt by the appointing authority of the county.

13 (4) The trustee search committee shall transmit its
14 recommendation in a time frame that permits the appointing
15 authority of the county to fill the trustee position as soon as it
16 becomes available.

17 (5) The trustee search committee shall initiate a new candidate
18 solicitation and search process if one has not been conducted within
19 the six month period preceding the need for a trustee appointment
20 or reappointment.

21 (6) The trustee search committee shall adopt internal procedures
22 to guide its deliberations addressing such matters as quorum
23 requirements, voting, methods for soliciting potential candidates,
24 and the interviewing process.

25 (7) The trustee search committee shall conduct its business in a
26 manner that instills public confidence in the trustee nomination
27 process.

28 c. When a county college is established by more than one
29 county, the board of trustees shall be increased by two members for
30 each additional participating county. The membership of the board
31 of trustees shall be apportioned by the commission among the
32 several counties as nearly as may be according to the number of
33 inhabitants in each county as shown by the last federal census,
34 officially promulgated in this State. Each apportionment shall
35 continue in effect until a reapportionment shall become necessary
36 by reason of the official promulgation of the next federal census or
37 the enlargement of the board by the admission of one or more
38 additional counties as provided for in section 18A:64A-24. Each
39 county shall be entitled to have at least two members and the county
40 superintendent of the schools of said county on the board of
41 trustees.

42 (cf: P.L.2007, c.147, s.1)

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44 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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Under current law at N.J.S.18A:64A-8, the appointing authority of the county is charged with appointing eight members to the board of trustees of a county college. The appointing authority of the county is required to establish a trustee search committee whose responsibility is to nominate individuals for consideration by the appointing authority of the county for appointment to the board of trustees. Under this bill, the members of the trustee search committee must reflect the diversity of the county. The bill directs the appointing authority of the county to specify a term of appointment for the members of the trustee search committee. In addition, the bill prohibits individuals with a potential conflict of interest from serving on the trustee search committee including, but not limited to, trustees and employees of the county college; employees of the appointing county; and immediate family members or business associates of a county official, county employee, county college trustee, or county college employee.

The bill also establishes the following requirements concerning the search process conducted by the trustee search committee:

- The trustee search committee must publish solicitations for applicants for trustee appointments.
- The number of candidates to be recommended per appointment must be developed collaboratively with the appointing authority of the county.
- The trustee search committee is required to adopt and transmit a resolution to the appointing authority of the county nominating qualified individuals for consideration for appointment to the board of trustees. The nominating resolution must be available to the public upon receipt by the appointing authority of the county.
- The trustee search committee is required to transmit its recommendation in a time frame that permits the appointing authority of the county to fill the trustee position as soon as it becomes available.
- The trustee search committee is required to initiate a new candidate solicitation and search process if one has not been conducted within the six month period preceding the need for a trustee appointment or reappointment.
- The trustee search committee is required to adopt internal procedures to guide its deliberations addressing such matters as quorum requirements, voting, methods for soliciting potential candidates, and the interviewing process.
- The trustee search committee must conduct its business in a manner that instills public confidence in the trustee nomination process.

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1 Under the bill, the appointing authority of the county can only
2 appoint as trustees individuals who have been nominated by the
3 trustee search committee.

4 The bill codifies certain recommendations of the New Jersey
5 Council of County Colleges regarding the trustee search process as
6 set forth in the council's publication entitled "Community College
7 Trustee Appointment Guidelines."