

SENATE, No. 2408

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 7, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Adds two student representatives to board of governors of Rutgers University.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the membership of the board of governors of
2 Rutgers University and amending and supplementing chapter 65
3 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

7
8 1. N.J.S.18A:65-14 is amended to read as follows:

9 18A:65-14. The membership of the board of governors shall be
10 classified as follows and consist of:

11 a. the president of the corporation, serving as an ex officio
12 non-voting member; **[and]**

13 b. 15 voting members,

14 i. seven of whom shall be appointed by the Governor of the
15 State, with the advice and consent of the Senate, with one of these
16 members being a resident of Camden County, and one of whom
17 shall be appointed by the Governor upon the recommendation of the
18 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly
19 and who shall be a resident of Essex County, and

20 ii. seven of whom shall be appointed by the board of trustees,
21 from among their members, one of whom shall be a resident of
22 Essex County and one of whom shall be a resident of Middlesex
23 County, elected and serving under the provisions of subsection I.c.
24 or I.d. of 18A:65-15**[.]** ; and

25 c. two student representatives who shall be full-time, regularly
26 matriculated students in good academic standing, and who shall be
27 18 years of age or older and citizens of the United States, to be
28 elected by the students of the university pursuant to section 2 of
29 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) to
30 serve on the board of governors for terms of two years commencing
31 at the next organization of the board.

32 The first additional appointments made by the Governor pursuant
33 to P.L.2012, c.45 (C.18A:64M-1 et al.), shall not require the advice
34 and consent of the Senate, but thereafter such advice and consent
35 shall be required.

36 All members, other than the student representatives, shall serve
37 for terms of six years, except that the terms of those initially
38 appointed by the Governor which began on September 1, 1956,
39 shall expire respectively (as designated by him) one, two, three,
40 four, five and six years after June 30, 1956, and terms of those
41 initially appointed by the board of trustees which began on
42 September 1, 1956, shall expire respectively (as designated by the
43 board) two, three, four, five and six years after June 30, 1956; all of
44 whose respective successors shall be appointed to serve six-year
45 terms. Governors may succeed themselves for not more than one

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.

1 additional term after having served one full six-year term (including
2 an initial term beginning on September 1, 1956, and expiring on
3 June 30, 1962).

4 (cf: P.L.2012, c.45, s.87)

5
6 2. (New section) a. In order to implement the provisions of
7 subsection c. of N.J.S.18A:65-14, the board of governors shall
8 schedule a public hearing within 90 days of the effective date of
9 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) on
10 the question of the method of election of student representatives to
11 the board. At its next regularly scheduled meeting following the
12 public hearing, the board of governors shall determine whether the
13 students are to be elected by the student body at large or by the
14 members of the student government association. The method of the
15 selection and the designation of eligible academic status of the
16 student representatives shall be determined by the board of
17 governors.

18 b. For the first election held pursuant to this section, one
19 student shall be elected for a one-year term as a full voting member,
20 and one student shall be elected for two years, but shall serve as an
21 alternate member during the first year and as a voting member
22 during the second year.

23 At each subsequent election, one student shall be elected for two
24 years, but shall serve during the first year as an alternate member,
25 and as a voting member during the second year. Any vacancies
26 which occur shall be filled by the student governing body for the
27 unexpired term only.

28 c. The standards for eligibility for student representatives on
29 the board of governors shall be the same as those required for other
30 student government officers.

31 d. The student members shall be entitled to full participation in
32 all activities of the board except that they shall not participate in:

33 (1) any matter involving the employment, appointment,
34 termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment,
35 evaluation of the performance of, promotion, or disciplining of any
36 specific prospective officer or employee or current officer or
37 employee employed or appointed by the board, unless all the
38 individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely
39 affected request in writing that the matter or matters be discussed at
40 a public meeting;

41 (2) any matter involving the purchase, lease, acquisition or sale
42 of real property with public funds, the setting of banking rates or
43 investment of public funds, where it could adversely affect the
44 public interest if discussion of these matters were disclosed; and

45 (3) any pending or anticipated litigation in which the board is, or
46 may become, a party, where it could adversely affect the public
47 interest if discussion of these matters were disclosed, or any matters
48 falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that

1 confidentiality is required in order for the attorney to exercise his
2 ethical duties as a lawyer.

3 e. Upon assuming office, the students shall agree to adhere to
4 such standards of responsibility and confidentiality as are
5 established by the board of governors.

6
7 3. This act shall take effect immediately.
8
9

10 STATEMENT
11

12 This bill adds two student representatives to the board of
13 governors of Rutgers University. Membership of the board
14 currently consists of the president of the university, serving as an ex
15 officio non-voting member, and 15 voting members, eight of whom
16 are appointed by the Governor, and seven of whom are members of
17 the board of trustees of the university.

18 Under the bill, two full-time, regularly matriculated student
19 representatives in good academic standing, who are 18 years of age
20 or older and citizens of the United States, are to be elected by the
21 students of the university to serve on the board of governors for
22 terms of two years.

23 The bill requires the board of governors to schedule a public
24 hearing on the question of the method of election of student
25 representatives to the board within 90 days of the bill's effective
26 date. At its next regularly scheduled meeting following the public
27 hearing, the board of governors will determine whether the students
28 are to be elected by the student body at large or by the members of
29 the student government association. The method of the selection
30 and the designation of eligible academic status of the student
31 representatives will be determined by the board of governors.

32 Under the bill, for the first election held for student
33 representatives, one student will be elected for a one-year term as a
34 full voting member, and one student will be elected for two years,
35 but will serve as an alternate member during the first year and as a
36 voting member during the second year. At each subsequent
37 election, one student is to be elected for two years, but will serve
38 during the first year as an alternate member, and as a voting
39 member during the second year.