

2021 -- S 0716

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senator V. Susan Sosnowski

Date Introduced: March 26, 2021

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

(University of Rhode Island)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-32-2.2 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-32 entitled "University  
2 of Rhode Island [See Title 16 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby  
3 amended to read as follows:

4 **16-32-2.2. Appointment and removal of the board of trustees.**

5 (a) There is hereby established a board of trustees for the university of Rhode Island  
6 consisting of seventeen (17) members. The governor shall appoint the members, with the advice  
7 and consent of the senate, to serve on the board of trustees, until the expiration of their term and  
8 their successor is appointed. In making these appointments the governor shall give due  
9 consideration to recommendations from the president of the university of Rhode Island and at least  
10 three (3) of those members appointed by the governor shall be residents of the state of Rhode Island,  
11 at least one of those members shall be selected from a list of names of at least five (5) individuals  
12 submitted by the speaker of the house of representatives, and at least one of those members shall  
13 be selected from a list of names of at least five (5) individuals submitted by the president of the  
14 senate. In addition, the president of the university of Rhode Island shall appoint one faculty member  
15 and one student member who shall be a full-time student in good standing at the university and  
16 who shall both serve in a non-voting, ex officio capacity for a single two (2) year term. The chair  
17 of the board of education and the chair of the council on postsecondary education shall serve in a  
18 non-voting, ex-officio capacity on the board of trustees. Six (6) of the members initially appointed  
19 pursuant to this section shall serve terms of three (3) years; seven (7) members initially appointed

1 pursuant to this section shall serve terms of two (2) years, including the member appointed from  
2 the list submitted by the speaker of the house of representatives and the member appointed from  
3 the list submitted by the president of the senate; and, four (4) members initially appointed pursuant  
4 to this section shall serve terms of one year. ~~Thirteen (13)~~ Ten (10) voting members of the board  
5 shall constitute a quorum and the vote of a majority of those present and voting shall be required  
6 for action.

7 (b) After the initial terms of appointment have expired, the governor shall appoint ~~nine (9)~~  
8 seventeen (17) members with the advice and consent of the senate to serve as members of the board  
9 of trustees ~~with three (3) members appointed for a term of three (3) years; with three (3) members~~  
10 ~~appointed for a term of two (2) years, including the member appointed from the list submitted by~~  
11 ~~the speaker of the house of representatives and the member appointed from the list submitted by~~  
12 ~~the president of the senate; and with three (3) members appointed for a term of one year and shall~~  
13 ~~be eligible to be reappointed to a term of two (2) years.~~ In making these appointments the governor  
14 shall give due consideration to recommendations from the president of the university of Rhode  
15 Island and at least three (3) of those members appointed by the governor shall be residents of the  
16 state of Rhode Island, at least one of those members shall be selected from a list of names of at  
17 least five (5) individuals submitted by the speaker of the house of representatives, and at least one  
18 of those members shall be selected from a list of names of at least five (5) individuals submitted by  
19 the president of the senate. Additionally, at least eight (8) members shall be selected by the governor  
20 from a list of names of individuals submitted by the chair of the board of trustees. ~~The remaining~~  
21 ~~eight (8) voting members shall be self-perpetuating members appointed by the board pursuant to~~  
22 ~~rules adopted by the board regarding the nomination and appointment of members and shall serve~~  
23 ~~terms as defined by the board pursuant to the adopted rules and be eligible for reappointment. In~~  
24 ~~making these appointments the board shall give due consideration to recommendations from the~~  
25 ~~president of the university of Rhode Island.~~ All members shall be appointed for a term of three (3)  
26 years and shall be eligible for reappointment. In addition, the president of the University of Rhode  
27 Island shall appoint one faculty member and one student member who shall be a full-time student  
28 in good standing at the university and who shall both serve in a non-voting, ex officio capacity for  
29 a single two (2) year term. The chair of the board of education and the chair of the council on  
30 postsecondary education shall serve in a non-voting, ex officio capacity on the board of trustees.

31 (c) A majority of the board shall elect the chair of the board from among the seventeen (17)  
32 voting board members pursuant to rules and regulations adopted by the board establishing the  
33 procedure for electing a chair.

34 (d) Public members of the board shall be removable by the appointing authority of the

1 member for cause only, and removal solely for partisan or personal reasons unrelated to capacity  
2 or fitness for the office shall be unlawful. No removal shall be made for any cause except after ten  
3 (10) days' notice in writing of specific charges, with opportunity for the member to be present in  
4 person and with counsel at a public hearing before the appointing authority, to introduce witnesses  
5 and documentary evidence in his or her own defense, and to confront and cross-examine adversary  
6 witnesses; and appeal shall lie to the superior court from the governor's determination.

7 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO EDUCATION - UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

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1           This act would provide that the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees meeting  
2 requirement for a quorum is ten (10) voting members. The act would further provide that a  
3 seventeen (17) member board would be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of  
4 the senate.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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