

2022 -- S 2747

LC005592

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senator V. Susan Sosnowski

Date Introduced: March 24, 2022

Referred To: Senate Education

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 [initial](#) members, with the
7 advice and consent of the senate, to serve on the board of trustees, until the expiration of their term
8 and 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
17 [president of the university of Rhode Island, the](#) chair of the board of education and the chair of the
18 council on postsecondary education shall serve in a non-voting, ex-officio capacity on the board of
19 trustees. Six (6) of the members initially appointed pursuant to this section shall serve terms of

1 three (3) years; seven (7) members initially appointed pursuant to this section shall serve terms of
2 two (2) years, including the member appointed from the list submitted by the speaker of the house
3 of representatives and the member appointed from the list submitted by the president of the senate;
4 and, four (4) members initially appointed pursuant to this section shall serve terms of one year.
5 ~~Thirteen (13)~~ A majority of voting members of the board shall constitute a quorum and the vote of
6 a majority of those present and voting shall be required 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 and the chair
15 of the board of trustees of the university of Rhode Island and at least three (3) of those members
16 appointed by the governor shall be residents of the state of Rhode Island, at least one of those
17 members shall be selected from a list of names of at least five (5) individuals submitted by the
18 speaker of the house of representatives, and at least one of those members shall be selected from a
19 list of names of at least five (5) individuals submitted by the president of the senate. ~~The remaining~~
20 ~~eight (8) voting members shall be self-perpetuating members appointed by the board pursuant to~~
21 ~~rules adopted by the board regarding the nomination and appointment of members and shall serve~~
22 ~~terms as defined by the board pursuant to the adopted rules and be eligible for reappointment. In~~
23 ~~making these appointments the board shall give due consideration to recommendations from the~~
24 ~~president of the university of Rhode Island.~~ All members shall be appointed for a term of three (3)
25 years and shall be eligible for reappointment. In addition, the president of the university of Rhode
26 Island shall appoint one faculty member and one student member who shall be a full-time student
27 in good standing at the university and who shall both serve in a non-voting, ex officio capacity.
28 The faculty member shall serve for a single two (2) year term. The student member shall serve for
29 up to two (2) one-year terms. The president of the university of Rhode Island, the chair of the board
30 of education and the chair of the council on postsecondary education shall serve in a non-voting,
31 ex officio capacity of the board of trustees.

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

1 (d) ~~Public members~~ Members of the board shall be removable by the ~~appointing authority~~
2 ~~of the member~~ governor for cause only (including, but not limited to, for repeated failure to attend
3 meetings), and removal solely for partisan or personal reasons unrelated to capacity or fitness for
4 the office shall be unlawful. In making decisions to remove a member, the governor shall give due
5 consideration to recommendations from the chair of the board of trustees of the university of Rhode
6 Island. No removal shall be made for any cause except after ten (10) days' notice in writing of
7 specific charges, with opportunity for the member to be present in person and with counsel at a
8 public hearing before the appointing authority, to introduce witnesses and documentary evidence
9 in his or her own defense, and to confront and cross-examine adversary witnesses; and appeal shall
10 lie to the superior court from the governor's determination.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO EDUCATION -- UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

1 This act would modify the process for the appointment and removal of the university of
2 Rhode Island's board of trustees. The act would transfer all appointments to the governor subject
3 to the advice and consent of the senate to serve on the board for terms of three (3) years. The act
4 would also allow the president of the university of Rhode Island to appoint one faculty member
5 and one student in non-voting, ex officio capacities.

6 This act would take effect upon passage.

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