STATE OF NEW YORK

5979--A

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 25, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. BRONSON, LUNSFORD, CLARK, SLATER, JENSEN, EPSTEIN, SAYEGH, SHIMSKY, OTIS, MORINELLO, STIRPE, MEEKS -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to including a faculty or staff member on the board of trustees of community colleges

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The opening paragraph of subdivision 1 of section 6306 of the education law, as amended by chapter 268 of the laws of 2003, is amended to read as follows:

Each community college, except in the city of New York, shall be administered by a board of trustees of [~~ten~~] **eleven** members, nine of whom shall be appointed for terms of seven years in annual rotation, and [~~one member~~] **two members** elected as herein provided, except that initial appointments shall be made for terms of one to nine years respectively. Five members shall be appointed by the local legislative body or board, or other appropriate governing agency, one of whom may be a member of such local legislative body or board, or other appropriate governing agency, four, from among persons residing in the sponsoring community, by the governor and one member elected by and from among the students of the college who shall serve as a member of the board for a one-year term, provided, however, that the term of the student member first elected shall be nine months commencing October first, nineteen hundred seventy-five**, and one of whom shall be elected by and from among the faculty and staff of the college, ex-officio and non-voting, who shall serve a two-year term, provided, however, that the term of the faculty or staff member first elected shall commence July first, two thousand twenty-six**. The **faculty or staff member and** student member shall be afforded the same parliamentary privileges as are conferred upon voting

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD00418-03-5

members, including but not limited to the right to make and second motions and to place items on the agenda. Such **community college board members, including the faculty or staff and** student [~~member~~] **members** shall be subject to **section eight hundred five-a of the general municipal law, section one hundred five of the public officers law and** every provision of any general, special or local law, ordinance, charter, code, rule or regulation applying to the members of such board with respect to the discharge of their duties including, but not limited to, those provisions setting forth codes of ethics, disclosure requirements and prohibiting business and professional activities. The election of the student member shall be conducted in accordance with rules and regulations promulgated by the respective representative campus student association in accordance with guidelines established by the state university trustees. **The election of the faculty or staff member shall be conducted in accordance with rules and regulations promulgated by the largest faculty organization on each campus.** In the event that the student member ceases to be a student at the institution, [~~he~~] **they** shall be required to resign. **In the event that the faculty or staff member ceases to be an employee at the institution, they shall be required to resign.** The governor's initial appointments shall be for terms of two, four, six and eight years respectively and those by local authorities for terms of one, three, five, seven and nine years respectively. Vacancies shall be filled for unexpired terms in the same manner as original selections by the authority responsible for the original selection. The board shall select its own [~~chairman~~] **chair** from among its voting membership. Where two or more local sponsors join in the establishment of a community college, the apportionment of the appointments among them shall be made by the state university trustees. Trustees shall receive no compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed for their expenses actually and necessarily incurred by them in the performance of their duties under this article. Members initially appointed or elected under this subdivision to the board of trustees of any community college hereafter established shall take office immediately upon their selection and qualification, but for purposes of determining the expiration of their respective terms and the commencement of the terms of their successors, the term of office of each such initial member shall be deemed to have commenced on the first day of July of the year in which such college was established. The terms of office of all members of the boards of trustees of community colleges heretofore established, appointed or elected as provided in this subdivision, shall terminate on the thirtieth day of June of the calendar year within which such terms expire under the provisions of this subdivision as hereby amended. For the purpose of determining such year all initial terms of office of appointed members of the boards of trustees of community colleges heretofore established shall be deemed to have commenced on the first day of July of the year in which such colleges were established and the terms of their successors for full terms, if any, shall be deemed to have commenced upon the expiration of the number of years from such date for which such initial appointments were made.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.