STATE OF NEW YORK

9861

IN SENATE

April 9, 2026

Introduced by Sen. STAVISKY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education

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-seven**. The **faculty or staff member and** student member shall be afforded the same parliamentary privileges as are conferred upon voting members, including but not limited to the right to make and second motions and to place items on the agenda. Such **faculty or staff and** student [~~member~~] **members** shall be subject to 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

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

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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. Subdivision 3-a of section 6306 of the education law, as added by chapter 319 of the laws of 2008, is amended to read as follows:

3-a. [~~(a)~~] Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions one and three of this section, effective July first, two thousand [~~eight~~] **twenty-seven**, the fashion institute of technology shall be administered by a board of trustees of [~~twelve~~] **seventeen** members. [~~Six~~] **Eight** members shall be appointed by the local sponsor, one of whom may be a member of such sponsor; [~~five~~] **seven** members shall be appointed by the governor from among persons who reside in the city of New York; [~~and~~] one member shall be elected by and from among the students of the fashion institute of technology[~~.~~

~~(b) The provisions of subdivisions one and three of this section notwithstanding, effective July first, two thousand nine, the fashion institute of technology shall be administered by a board of trustees of fourteen members. Seven members shall be appointed by the local sponsor,~~

~~one of whom may be a member of such sponsor; six members shall be appointed by the governor from among persons who reside in the city of New York; and one member shall be elected by and from among the students of the fashion institute of technology.~~

~~(c) The provisions of subdivisions one and three of this section notwithstanding, effective July first, two thousand ten, the fashion institute of technology shall be administered by a board of trustees of sixteen members. Eight members shall be appointed by the local sponsor, one of whom may be a member of such sponsor; seven members shall be appointed by the governor from among persons who reside in the city of New York; and one member shall be elected by and from among the students of the fashion institute of technology~~] who shall serve as a member of the board for a one-year term; 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-seven. The faculty or staff member and student member shall be afforded the same parliamentary privileges as are conferred upon voting members, including but not limited to the right to make and second motions and to place items on the agenda. Such faculty or staff and student members shall be subject to 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, 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.

§ 3. Subdivisions 1 and 1-a of section 6310 of the education law, subdivision 1 as amended by chapter 268 of the laws of 2003, and subdivision 1-a as added by chapter 144 of the laws of 1996, are amended to read as follows:

1. Each community college region and community college sponsored by such region shall be administered by a single board of trustees of [~~fourteen~~] fifteen members, thirteen of whom shall be appointed for terms of seven years, as set forth in this subdivision, and one member elected as herein provided, except that initial appointments shall be made for terms of one to nine years respectively. Seven members shall be appointed by the local legislative bodies or boards of those counties eligible to appoint members to the community college regional board of trustees. The seven locally appointed members of such board may include one member from the local legislative body or board of each county eligible to appoint members to the community college regional board of trustees. Membership in a community college regional board of trustees shall be apportioned among the counties participating in such board in accordance with the number of full-time equivalent students attending a community college sponsored by such regional board who are residents of the respective participating counties, and in accordance with such further regulations as may be prescribed by the state university trus-

tees. Six members shall be appointed by the governor [~~and~~], one member shall be 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 eighty-four, and one member who 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-seven. The faculty or staff and student [~~member~~] members shall be afforded the same parliamentary privileges as are conferred upon members, including but not limited to the right to make and second motions and to place items on the agenda. Such faculty or staff and student [~~member~~] members shall be subject to 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 as follows: (a) two individuals shall be appointed for terms of two and four years respectively; (b) two individuals for terms of six years and two individuals for terms of eight years. Appointments by local authorities shall be as follows: (a) three individuals for terms of one, three and five years, respectively; (b) two individuals for terms of seven years, and two individuals for terms of nine years. 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. 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 any community college regional board of trustees 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 community college regional boards of trustees 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 community college regional board of trustees heretofore established shall be deemed to have commenced on the first day of July of the year in which such community college regions 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.

The one member elected by and from among the students of the college may be removed by such students in accordance with rules and regulations promulgated by the respective representative campus student association in accordance with guidelines promulgated by the state university trustees.

1-a. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision one of this section, a community college region established to operate as local sponsor of Jamestown community college shall be administered by a single board of trustees of [~~fifteen~~] **sixteen** members, fourteen of whom shall be appointed for terms of seven years, except that the initial appointments shall be made as set forth in this subdivision, [~~and~~] one member who shall be elected by and from among the students of the college and shall serve as set forth in subdivision one of this section**, and one member who shall be elected by and from among the faculty and staff of the college and shall serve as set forth in subdivision one of this section**. Eight members shall be appointed by the local governing bodies of the counties and city eligible to appoint members to the Jamestown community college regional board of trustees, and six members shall be appointed by the governor. The eight locally appointed members of such board may include one member appointed from among the local governing bodies of the counties or city eligible to appoint members to the regional board of trustees. Membership in the Jamestown community college regional board of trustees shall be apportioned in accordance with the number of full-time equivalent students attending the community college who are residents of the respective participating counties or city, and in accordance with such further regulations as may be prescribed by the state university trustees.

Upon the effective date of this subdivision, and notwithstanding any inconsistent provision of any other law, the current Jamestown community college board of trustees shall be redesignated the Jamestown community college regional board of trustees and the terms of the current members of the Jamestown community college board of trustees shall continue until their expiration or termination as provided by section sixty-three hundred six of this chapter. The governor's initial appointments to the Jamestown community college regional board of trustees shall be as follows: one individual shall be appointed for a term of three years, and one individual shall be appointed for a term of five years. Initial appointments by the local authorities shall be as follows: one individual shall be appointed for a term of two years, one individual shall be appointed for a term of four years, and one individual shall be appointed for a term of six years. 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. 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 any community college regional board of trustees 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 community college regional boards of trustees 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 community college regional board of trustees heretofore 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.

The one member elected by and from among the students of the college may be removed by such students in accordance with rules and regulations promulgated by the respective representative campus student association in accordance with guidelines promulgated by the state university trustees.

In the event that the student member ceases to be a student at the institution, 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.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.