

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 353

An act relating to postsecondary education; amending ss. 229.003 and 229.008, F.S.; revising the membership of state university boards of trustees; creating s. 240.236, F.S.; providing requirements for university student governments; providing requirements with respect to the adoption of internal procedures; providing for review of an internal procedure disapproved by a university president; providing procedures for suspension and removal of student government officers; amending s. 240.5277, F.S.; revising the membership of the Board of Trustees of New College of Florida; repealing s. 240.136, F.S., relating to suspension and removal of elected student government officials at state universities and community colleges; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (4) of section 229.003, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

229.003 Florida education governance reorganization.—

(4) The Governor shall appoint for each university in the State University System a 12-member board of trustees, which shall be a body corporate with all the powers of a body corporate. In addition to the 12 members, the a student body president elected on the main campus pursuant to s. 240.236 shall serve ex officio as a voting member of the board of trustees. There shall be no state residency requirement for university board members, but the Governor shall consider diversity and regional representation. Each appointee is subject to confirmation by the Senate at the regular legislative session immediately following his or her appointment.

Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 229.008, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

229.008 Boards of trustees of the state universities.—

(1)(a) Effective July 1, 2001, and no later than November 1, 2001, the Governor shall appoint a 12-member ~~13-member~~ board of trustees for each university in the State University System, each member to be confirmed by the Senate in the regular legislative session immediately following his or her appointment. In addition, the a student body president elected on the main campus pursuant to s. 240.236 shall serve ex officio as a voting member of his or her university board of trustees. There shall be no state residency requirement for university board members, but the Governor shall consider diversity and regional representation. Members of the boards of trustees shall receive no compensation but may be reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses as provided in s. 112.061.

Section 3. Section 240.236, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

240.236 University student governments.—

(1) A student government is created on the main campus of each state university. In addition, each university board of trustees may establish a student government on any branch campus or center.

(2) Each student government shall be organized and maintained by students and shall be composed of at least a student body president, a student legislative body, and a student judiciary. The student body president and the student legislative body shall be elected by the student body; however, interim vacancies and the student judiciary may be filled in a manner other than election as prescribed by the internal procedures of the student government.

(3) Each student government shall adopt internal procedures governing:

(a) The operation and administration of the student government.

(b) The execution of all other duties as prescribed to the student government by law.

(4)(a) The qualifications, elections, and returns, the appointments, and the suspension, removal, and discipline of officers of the student government shall be determined by the student government as prescribed by its internal procedures.

(b) Any elected or appointed officer of the student government may be removed from office by the majority vote of students participating in a referendum held under this paragraph. Each student government shall adopt internal procedures by which students may petition for a referendum to remove from office an elected or appointed officer of the student government. The grounds for removal of a student government officer by petition must be expressly contained in the petition and are limited to the following: malfeasance, misfeasance, neglect of duty, incompetence, permanent inability to perform official duties, or conviction of a felony. The referendum must be held no later than 60 days after the filing of the petition.

(c) Each student government shall adopt internal procedures providing for the suspension and removal of an elected or appointed student government officer following the conviction of that officer of a felony.

(5) Each student government is a part of the university at which it is established. If an internal procedure of the university student government is disapproved by the university president under s. 229.0082(15), a member of the university board of trustees may request a review of the disapproved procedure at the next meeting of the board of trustees.

Section 4. Subsection (3) of section 240.5277, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

240.5277 New College of Florida.—

(3) BOARD OF TRUSTEES.—The Governor shall appoint 12 members to the Board of Trustees, to serve 4-year staggered terms, as follows:

- (a) Three residents of Sarasota County.
- (b) Two residents of Manatee County.
- (c) Until the expiration date of the terms of office of the members who are on the board June 30, 2001, seven members selected from the Board of Trustees of the New College Foundation.

In addition, the a student body president of New College of Florida elected pursuant to s. 240.236 shall serve ex officio as ~~be~~ a voting member of the board.

Section 5. Section 240.136, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

Approved by the Governor April 25, 2002.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 25, 2002.