

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS**HB 269****2017 Regular Session****Lance Harris**

COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES: Provides relative to expression on college campuses

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Require adoption of a policy providing that students are entitled to a disciplinary hearing in all disciplinary cases involving expressive conduct, rather than only in a case when suspension for longer than 30 days or expulsion is a potential disciplinary sanction.
2. Delineate a student's rights in regard to disciplinary proceedings.
3. Delete requirement for student suspension under certain circumstances.
4. Delete requirement for a policy restricting institutional involvement in public policy controversies.
5. Relative to required policies regarding protests and demonstrations that infringe on the rights of others, requires such policies only to cover cases in which the infringement is achieved by creating a substantial and material disruption to the functioning of the institution or to someone's expressive activity.
6. Remove a cause of action for injunction, damages, court costs, and attorney fees available to person whose expressive rights are violated by a violation of proposed law.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Proposed law provides for a state policy on free expression on public college and university campuses, including the following major components:

- (1) Requires each postsecondary education management board to develop and adopt policies on free expression that contains specific enumerated statements and provisions.
- (2) Requires the Bd. of Regents to create a committee on free expression to issue annual reports of the status of free expression on college campuses based upon various metrics.
- (3) Authorizes the management boards to adopt regulations to further the purposes of the adopted policy.
- (4) Requires state institutions of postsecondary education to include in freshman orientation programs a description of the free expression policies and regulations.
- (5) Authorizes state institutions of postsecondary education to restrict expressive conduct within certain limitations.

(Adds R.S. 17:3399.31-3399.35)