

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1063

BY REPRESENTATIVE OWEN

HIGHER EDUCATION: Provides requirements for public postsecondary education management boards relative to core curricula, hiring and employment, faculty deliberative bodies, and nonacademic disciplinary proceedings and prohibits institutions from expending certain funds under certain circumstances

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Part XV of Chapter 26 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be  
3 comprised of R.S. 17:3399.51 through 3399.56, relative to postsecondary education;  
4 to require each public postsecondary education management board to review courses  
5 forming core curricula, determine if they meet certain criteria, and issue an annual  
6 report relative thereto; to require each public postsecondary education management  
7 board to take certain action with regard to hiring and employment practices for  
8 employees in certain positions; to provide requirements relative to faculty  
9 deliberative bodies; to provide requirements relative to nonacademic disciplinary  
10 proceedings for students; to prohibit a public postsecondary education institution  
11 from expending funds unless certain conditions are met; to provide for effectiveness;  
12 and to provide for related matters.

13 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

14 Section 1. This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Higher Education  
15 Accountability and Governance Act".

16 Section 2.(A) The legislature finds that the state of Louisiana makes a substantial  
17 investment in public postsecondary education and that with this ongoing public investment  
18 comes a duty for public postsecondary education institutions to serve the interests of the  
19 people of Louisiana.

1 (B) The legislature finds that the legislature has a critical interest in setting priorities  
2 for public postsecondary education institutions, which are ultimately answerable to the  
3 people of Louisiana and their duly elected representatives, in order to ensure the wise use  
4 of the state's money.

5 (C) The legislature acknowledges the importance of academic freedom and  
6 intellectual diversity as values that aid the pursuit of truth in postsecondary education.

7 (D) This Act is enacted pursuant to the legislature's authority under the Preamble of  
8 Article VIII of the Constitution of Louisiana and shall not be construed to infringe upon the  
9 constitutional powers granted to the Board of Regents or the public postsecondary education  
10 management boards.

11 Section 3. Part XV of Chapter 26 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of  
12 1950, comprised of R.S. 17:3399.51 through 3399.56, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

13 PART XV. POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION: CORE CURRICULUM, HIRING AND

14 EMPLOYMENT, FACULTY DELIBERATIVE BODIES, AND NONACADEMIC

15 DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

16 §3399.51. Definitions

17 For the purposes of this Part:

18 (1) "Core curriculum" means the collection of courses that students are  
19 required to complete for credit toward completion of a degree program.

20 (2) "Degree program" means a program leading to a degree, certificate, or  
21 other credential.

22 (3) "Faculty deliberative body" means any senate, committee, council, union,  
23 or other organization of the faculty recognized by an institution as having a formal  
24 role in the governance of the institution, with responsibilities extending beyond a  
25 single school or department.

26 (4) "Public postsecondary education institution" or "institution" means an  
27 institution under the supervision and management of the Board of Supervisors of  
28 Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the Board of  
29 Supervisors of Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the

1 Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System, or the Board of  
2 Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges.

3 (5) "Public postsecondary education management board" means the Board  
4 of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical  
5 College, the Board of Supervisors of Southern University and Agricultural and  
6 Mechanical College, the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana  
7 System, and the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges.

8 §3399.52. Core curriculum

9 A. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, each management board, in  
10 consultation with the Board of Regents, shall annually review all courses forming the  
11 core curriculum for each degree program at each institution under its supervision and  
12 management and determine if each course meets the following criteria:

13 (1) The course is foundational and fundamental to a sound postsecondary  
14 education.

15 (2) The course is necessary to prepare for civic or professional life.

16 (3) The course reflects core content and methodologies of historic liberal arts  
17 and preprofessional disciplines.

18 B. Each management board shall make a report outlining the courses subject  
19 to review, course descriptions, the criteria for reviewing them, and the process for  
20 review available publicly online for at least thirty days prior to the meeting of the  
21 management board at which the review will be discussed.

22 C. Each management board shall vote to certify that the courses offered by  
23 each institution under its supervision and management as part of the core curriculum  
24 for each degree program meet the criteria in Subsection A of this Section.

25 D. Each year, each management board shall vote on whether to reauthorize  
26 or revise the core curriculum for each degree program at each institution under its  
27 supervision and management.

28 E. Each management board shall comply with the provisions of this Section  
29 by the end of the 2027-2028 academic year. For subsequent academic years, the

1 annual review shall include a review of the previous year's approved courses and, for  
2 each course, its satisfaction of the criteria in Subsection A of this Section.

3 §3399.53. Faculty and administrator hiring and employment

4 A. Each management board shall approve or deny at a public meeting the  
5 proposed job posting for any position proposed to be filled by an individual who will  
6 be eligible for tenure and will teach at least one course in any field. Each proposed  
7 job posting shall be posted publicly online at least thirty days prior to the  
8 management board's meeting. The board may vote on multiple proposed postings  
9 in a single motion.

10 B.(1) Each management board shall approve or deny at a public meeting the  
11 hiring, appointment, or promotion of any individual who will serve as a chancellor,  
12 vice chancellor, president, vice president, provost, associate provost, dean, or any  
13 other position of comparable authority at an institution under its supervision and  
14 management.

15 (2) The curriculum vitae of any individual considered for such a position  
16 shall be posted publicly online at least thirty days prior to the management board's  
17 consideration of his hiring, appointment, or promotion.

18 C. Any search committee tasked with identifying candidates for president or  
19 provost at an institution shall comply with the following requirements:

20 (1) At least sixty percent of its members shall be members of the  
21 management board, who shall be the only voting members of the committee.

22 (2) Be composed of other members as approved by the management board.

23 (3) If an external search firm is used to support the search committee, the  
24 firm shall be approved by the management board.

25 D. No management board shall delegate the duties ascribed to it in this  
26 Section to any other individual, official, or entity.

27 §3399.54. Faculty deliberative bodies

28 A. The following provisions shall apply to each faculty deliberative body:

1           (1) It shall perform a strictly advisory role, making nonbinding  
2           recommendations to administrative officers of the institution.

3           (2) It shall not present itself as an authoritative or policymaking body.

4           (3) The president of the institution shall appoint the head of the faculty  
5           deliberative body.

6           (4) Membership on the faculty deliberative body is limited to full professors  
7           with tenure, and service is limited to one academic year. Upon completion of this  
8           term of service, the faculty member shall not be eligible to serve again for four  
9           academic years.

10          (5) No state or institution funds shall be used to pay for staff or  
11          administrative employees dedicated exclusively to the faculty deliberative body.

12          (6) If a faculty deliberative body rejects a course or curriculum proposal in  
13          whole or in part, the president, provost, and relevant officers shall review and  
14          consider the entirety of the proposal.

15          (7) The names of the members in attendance shall be recorded at any  
16          meeting in which the faculty deliberative body conducts business related to either of  
17          the following:

18                (a) A vote of no confidence regarding an institution or system administrator.

19                (b) Policies related to curriculum and academic standards.

20                B. This Section shall not be construed to limit a faculty member's right to  
21                freedom of association as protected by the Constitution of the United States and the  
22                Constitution of Louisiana.

23                C. The provisions of this Section shall supersede and control to the extent  
24                of any conflict with any other provision of law relative to the powers and duties of  
25                faculty deliberative bodies.

26                §3399.55. Nonacademic disciplinary proceedings

27                A. Following any major campus disruption arising from legal or policy  
28                violations by students, the chief executive officer of the institution shall submit  
29                anonymized, quarterly, incident-specific disciplinary reports for eighteen months to

1 the management board. Such reports shall include quantitative data on the sanctions  
 2 imposed and the names of the admissions officers who reviewed the applications of  
 3 sanctioned students.

4 B. The chief executive officer may convene a special advisory committee to  
 5 review the advisory determinations of subordinate administrators or subordinate  
 6 bodies in nonacademic disciplinary cases and make recommendations to the chief  
 7 executive officer or make the original determination for any nonacademic  
 8 disciplinary case.

9 §3399.56. Compliance

10 Beginning with the 2027-2028 Fiscal Year, an institution shall not expend  
 11 any funds appropriated to it for a given fiscal year until its management board  
 12 submits to the legislature and the Board of Regents a report certifying the  
 13 management board's compliance with the provisions of this Part during the preceding  
 14 fiscal year.

15 Section 4. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
 16 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
 17 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
 18 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
 19 effective on the day following such approval.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 1063 Original

2026 Regular Session

Owen

**Abstract:** Requires the public postsecondary education management boards to take certain actions with respect to core curricula, hiring and employment, faculty deliberative bodies, and nonacademic disciplinary proceedings and prohibits institutions from expending appropriated funds under certain circumstances.

**Core curriculum**

Proposed law requires each public postsecondary education management board, in consultation with the Bd. of Regents, to annually review all courses forming the core curriculum for each degree program at each institution under its supervision and management and determine if each course meets the following criteria: it is foundational and

fundamental to a sound postsecondary education, is necessary preparation for civic or professional life, and reflects core content and methodologies of historic liberal arts and preprofessional disciplines.

Proposed law further requires each management board to:

- (1) Make a report outlining the courses subject to review, course descriptions, the criteria for reviewing them, and the process for review available publicly online for at least 30 days prior to the meeting of the management board at which the review will be discussed.
- (2) Vote to certify that the courses offered by each institution under its supervision and management as part of the core curriculum for each degree program meet proposed law criteria.
- (3) Vote each year on whether to reauthorize or revise the core curriculum for each degree program at each institution under its supervision and management.

Proposed law provides that each management board shall comply with proposed law by the end of the 2027-2028 academic year. Provides that for subsequent academic years, the annual report shall include a review of the previous year's approved courses and, for each course, its satisfaction of proposed law criteria.

### **Hiring and employment**

Proposed law requires each management board to approve or deny during a public meeting the proposed job posting for any position that will be filled by an individual who will be eligible for tenure and will teach one or more courses in any field. Requires each proposed job posting to be posted publicly online at least 30 days prior to the management board's meeting. Authorizes the board to vote on multiple proposed postings in a single motion.

Proposed law requires each management board to approve or deny during a public meeting the hiring, appointment, or promotion of any individual who will serve as a chancellor, vice chancellor, president, vice president, provost, associate provost, dean, or any other position of comparable authority at an institution under its supervision and management. Requires that the curriculum vitae of any individual considered for such a position be posted publicly online at least 30 days prior to the management board's consideration.

Proposed law provides that any search committee tasked with identifying candidates for president or provost at an institution shall consist of at least 60% of members of the management board, who shall be the only voting members of the committee and be composed of other members as approved by the management board. Provides that if an external firm is used, it must be approved by the management board.

Proposed law prohibits a management board from delegating the duties ascribed to it in proposed law to any other individual, official, or entity.

### **Faculty deliberative bodies**

Proposed law provides the following relative to each faculty deliberative body:

- (1) It shall perform a strictly advisory role, making nonbinding recommendations to administrative officers of the institution.
- (2) It shall not present itself as an authoritative or policymaking body.
- (3) The president of the institution shall appoint the head of the faculty deliberative body.

- (4) Membership on the faculty deliberative body is limited to full professors with tenure, and service is limited to one academic year. Upon completion of this term of service, the faculty member is not eligible to serve again for four academic years.
- (5) No state or institution funds shall be used to pay for staff or administrative employees dedicated exclusively to the faculty deliberative body.
- (6) If a faculty deliberative body rejects a course or curriculum proposal in whole or in part, the president, provost, and relevant officers shall review and consider the entirety of the proposal.
- (7) The names of the members in attendance shall be recorded at any meeting in which the faculty deliberative body conducts business related to a vote of no confidence regarding an institution or system administrator or policies related to curriculum and academic standards.

Proposed law provides that proposed law shall not be construed to limit a faculty member's right to freedom of association protected by the U.S. and La. constitutions and that proposed law shall supersede and control to the extent of any conflict with present law relative to the powers and duties of faculty deliberative bodies.

#### **Nonacademic disciplinary proceedings**

##### Proposed law:

- (1) Provides that following any major campus disruption arising from legal or policy violations by students, the CEO of the institution shall submit anonymized, quarterly, incident-specific disciplinary reports for 18 months to the management board that include quantitative data on the sanctions imposed and the names of the admissions officers who reviewed the applications of sanctioned students.
- (2) Authorizes the CEO to convene a special advisory committee to review the advisory determinations of subordinate administrators or subordinate bodies in any nonacademic disciplinary cases and make recommendations to the CEO or serve the original determination for any nonacademic disciplinary case.

#### **Compliance**

Proposed law, beginning with the 2027-2028 Fiscal Year, prohibits an institution from expending funds appropriated to it for a given fiscal year until its management board submits to the legislature and the Bd. of Regents a report certifying the management board's compliance with proposed law during the preceding fiscal year.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 17:17:3399.51-3399.56)