

SSB 5217 - H COMM AMD  
By Committee on Higher Education

ADOPTED 02/27/2012

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that decisions made  
4 by governing boards of each respective institution greatly impact the  
5 lives of students and that student participation in the decision-making  
6 process can provide insight into the impacts of actions by trustees  
7 that are not always measurable through reports and statistics.  
8 Students are on campus every day using services and experiencing  
9 aspects of the institution that board members may only see on paper,  
10 providing a unique and valuable perspective that should not be  
11 overlooked.

12 Students serving on governing boards of higher education have  
13 proven effective in Washington and in over thirty other states. For  
14 over ten years students at Washington's four-year institutions of  
15 higher education have served as voting members on the board of  
16 trustees, regents, and the higher education coordinating board,  
17 providing greater depth in board deliberations and a well-educated  
18 conduit for students to voice ideas and concerns.

19 The student perspective at community colleges also brings the board  
20 closer to their community. Student populations at community colleges  
21 are the most diverse of any institution of higher education in the  
22 state. Being on campus and in class every day, students are exposed to  
23 a more diverse group than any member of the board representing any one  
24 group of the community.

25 Student positions on governing boards are also a valuable tool for  
26 developing leadership through experiential learning. Student members  
27 learn processes of institutional governance, become involved in campus  
28 projects, analyze policy proposals, and participate in board  
29 discussions and decision making.

1       It is the intent of the legislature to enhance community college  
2 governance by fostering a more dynamic relationship between students  
3 and institutions through the encouragement of student participation in  
4 policy development and decision making at the district and state level.

5       **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.50.100 and 2011 c 336 s 739 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7       There is hereby created a board of trustees for each college  
8 district as set forth in this chapter. Each board of trustees shall be  
9 composed of five trustees, except as provided in section 3 of this act,  
10 who shall be appointed by the governor for terms commencing October 1st  
11 of the year in which appointed. In making such appointments the  
12 governor shall give consideration to geographical diversity, and  
13 representing labor, business, women, and racial and ethnic minorities,  
14 in the membership of the boards of trustees. The boards of trustees  
15 for districts containing technical colleges shall include at least one  
16 member from business and one member from labor.

17       The successors of the trustees initially appointed shall be  
18 appointed by the governor to serve for a term of five years except that  
19 any person appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the  
20 expiration of any term shall be appointed only for the remainder of the  
21 term. Each member shall serve until a successor is appointed and  
22 qualified.

23       Every trustee shall be a resident and qualified elector of the  
24 college district. No trustee may be an employee of the community and  
25 technical college system, a member of the board of directors of any  
26 school district, or a member of the governing board of any public or  
27 private educational institution.

28       Each board of trustees shall organize itself by electing a chair  
29 from its members. The board shall adopt a seal and may adopt such  
30 bylaws, rules, and regulations as it deems necessary for its own  
31 government. Three members of the board shall constitute a quorum, but  
32 a lesser number may adjourn from time to time and may compel the  
33 attendance of absent members in such manner as prescribed in its  
34 bylaws, rules, or regulations. The district president, or if there be  
35 none, the president of the college, shall serve as, or may designate  
36 another person to serve as, the secretary of the board, who shall not  
37 be deemed to be a member of the board.

1 Members of the boards of trustees may be removed for misconduct or  
2 malfeasance in office in the manner provided by RCW 28B.10.500.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.50 RCW  
4 to read as follows:

5 (1) Boards of trustees for each college district, by majority vote,  
6 may establish a sixth trustee that shall be filled by a student. The  
7 governor shall select each student member from a list of candidates, of  
8 at least three and not more than five, submitted by the associated  
9 student governments or their equivalent of the college district. The  
10 student member shall hold his or her office for a term of one year,  
11 beginning July 1st and ending June 30th, or until the student member's  
12 successor is appointed and qualified, whichever is later. The student  
13 member shall be a full-time student in good standing at a college  
14 within the college district at the time of appointment and throughout  
15 the student's term. If the student member fails to be enrolled at the  
16 college full-time or forfeits his or her academic standing, the student  
17 member is disqualified and a new student member must be appointed.

18 (2) A student appointed under this section shall excuse himself or  
19 herself from participation or voting on matters relating to the hiring,  
20 discipline, or tenure of faculty members and personnel or any other  
21 matters pertaining to collective bargaining agreements.

22 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28B.50.050 and 1991 c 238 s 30 are each amended to  
23 read as follows:

24 (1) There is hereby created the "state board for community and  
25 technical colleges", to consist of nine members who represent the  
26 geographic diversity of the state, and who shall be appointed by the  
27 governor, with the consent of the senate. At least two members shall  
28 reside east of the Cascade mountains. A tenth member may be added  
29 pursuant to subsection (3) of this section. In making these  
30 appointments, the governor shall attempt to provide geographic balance  
31 and give consideration to representing labor, business, women, and  
32 racial and ethnic minorities, among the membership of the board. At  
33 least one member of the board shall be from business and at least one  
34 member of the board shall be from labor. The current members of the  
35 state board for community college education on September 1, 1991, shall  
36 serve on the state board for community and technical colleges until

1 their terms expire. Successors to these members shall be appointed  
2 according to the terms of this section. A ninth member shall be  
3 appointed by September 1, 1991, for a complete term.

4 (2) The successors of the members initially appointed shall be  
5 appointed for terms of four years except that a person appointed to  
6 fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of any term shall be  
7 appointed only for the remainder of such term. Each member shall serve  
8 until the appointment and qualification of his or her successor. All  
9 members shall be citizens and bona fide residents of the state.

10 (3) By majority vote, the board may establish a tenth board member  
11 that shall be a community or technical college student. The student  
12 member shall be appointed by the governor, with the consent of the  
13 senate. The student member shall hold his or her office for a term of  
14 one year, beginning July 1st and ending June 30th, or until the student  
15 member's successor is appointed and qualified, whichever is later. The  
16 student member shall be enrolled at a community or technical college  
17 for at least six credits per quarter during the academic year, and in  
18 good standing within their college at the time of appointment and  
19 throughout the student's term. If the student member fails to be  
20 enrolled at the college for at least six credits per quarter during the  
21 academic year or forfeits his or her academic standing, the student  
22 member is disqualified and a new student member must be appointed. A  
23 student appointed under this section shall excuse himself or herself  
24 from participation or voting on matters relating to the hiring,  
25 discipline, or any other matters pertaining to faculty, personnel, or  
26 collective bargaining agreements.

27 (4) Members of the college board shall be compensated in accordance  
28 with RCW 43.03.240 and shall receive reimbursement for travel expenses  
29 in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 for each day actually  
30 spent in attending to the duties as a member of the college board.

31 (5) The members of the college board may be removed by the governor  
32 for inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office, in the  
33 manner provided by RCW 28B.10.500."

34 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Permits the State Board for Community and Technical

Colleges by majority vote, to add a tenth board member who must be a student. Requires that the student:

- (1) Be appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Senate;
- (2) Be enrolled at a community or technical college for at least six quarter credits per quarter during the academic year; and
- (3) Be in good standing with their college at the time of their appointment and throughout their term.

Directs that the student excuse himself or herself from voting on matters relating to the hiring, discipline, or any other matters relating to faculty, personnel or collective bargaining agreements.

--- END ---