

**2022 -- S 2747 SUBSTITUTE A**

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LC005592/SUB A/2  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022**

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senator V. Susan Sosnowski

Date Introduced: March 24, 2022

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 16-32-2.2 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-32 entitled "University  
2 of Rhode Island [See Title 16 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby  
3 amended to read as follows:

4           **16-32-2.2. Appointment and removal of the board of trustees.**

5           (a) There is hereby established a board of trustees for the university of Rhode Island  
6 consisting of seventeen (17) members. The governor shall appoint the [initial](#) members, with the  
7 advice and consent of the senate, to serve on the board of trustees, until the expiration of their term  
8 and their successor is appointed. In making these appointments the governor shall give due  
9 consideration to recommendations from the president of the university of Rhode Island and at least  
10 three (3) of those members appointed by the governor shall be residents of the state of Rhode Island,  
11 at least one of those members shall be selected from a list of names of at least five (5) individuals  
12 submitted by the speaker of the house of representatives, and at least one of those members shall  
13 be selected from a list of names of at least five (5) individuals submitted by the president of the  
14 senate. In addition, the president of the university of Rhode Island shall appoint one faculty member  
15 and one student member who shall be a full-time student in good standing at the university and  
16 who shall both serve in a non-voting, ex officio capacity for a single two (2) year term. The  
17 [president of the university of Rhode Island, the](#) chair of the board of education and the chair of the  
18 council on postsecondary education shall serve in a non-voting, ex-officio capacity on the board of  
19 trustees. Six (6) of the members initially appointed pursuant to this section shall serve terms of

1 three (3) years; seven (7) members initially appointed pursuant to this section shall serve terms of  
2 two (2) years, including the member appointed from the list submitted by the speaker of the house  
3 of representatives and the member appointed from the list submitted by the president of the senate;  
4 and, four (4) members initially appointed pursuant to this section shall serve terms of one year.  
5 ~~Thirteen (13)~~ A majority of voting members of the board shall constitute a quorum and the vote of  
6 a majority of those present and voting shall be required for action.

7 (b) After the initial terms of appointment have expired, the governor shall appoint ~~nine (9)~~  
8 seventeen (17) members with the advice and consent of the senate to serve as members of the board  
9 of trustees ~~with three (3) members appointed for a term of three (3) years; with three (3) members~~  
10 ~~appointed for a term of two (2) years, including the member appointed from the list submitted by~~  
11 ~~the speaker of the house of representatives and the member appointed from the list submitted by~~  
12 ~~the president of the senate; and with three (3) members appointed for a term of one year and shall~~  
13 ~~be eligible to be reappointed to a term of two (2) years.~~ In making these appointments the governor  
14 shall give due consideration to recommendations from the president of the university and the chair  
15 of the board of trustees of the university of Rhode Island and at least three (3) of those members  
16 appointed by the governor shall be residents of the state of Rhode Island, at least one of those  
17 members shall be selected ~~from~~ after due consideration of a list of names of at least five (5)  
18 individuals submitted by the speaker of the house of representatives, and at least one of those  
19 members shall be selected ~~from~~ after due consideration of a list of names of at least five (5)  
20 individuals submitted by the president of the senate. ~~The remaining eight (8) voting members shall~~  
21 ~~be self-perpetuating members appointed by the board pursuant to rules adopted by the board~~  
22 ~~regarding the nomination and appointment of members and shall serve terms as defined by the~~  
23 ~~board pursuant to the adopted rules and be eligible for reappointment. In making these~~  
24 ~~appointments the board shall give due consideration to recommendations from the president of the~~  
25 ~~university of Rhode Island.~~ All members shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years and shall  
26 be eligible for reappointment. In addition, the president of the university of Rhode Island shall  
27 appoint one faculty member and one student member who shall be a full-time student in good  
28 standing at the university and who shall both serve in a non-voting, ex officio capacity. The faculty  
29 member shall serve for a single two (2) year term. The student member shall serve for up to two  
30 (2) one-year terms. The president of the university of Rhode Island, the chair of the board of  
31 education and the chair of the council on postsecondary education shall serve in a non-voting, ex  
32 officio capacity of the board of trustees.

33 (c) A majority of the board shall elect the chair of the board from among the seventeen (17)  
34 voting board members pursuant to rules and regulations adopted by the board establishing the

1 procedure for electing a chair.

2 (d) ~~Public members~~ Members of the board shall be removable by the ~~appointing authority~~  
3 ~~of the member~~ governor for cause only, and removal solely for partisan or personal reasons  
4 unrelated to capacity or fitness for the office shall be unlawful. In making decisions to remove a  
5 member, the governor shall give due consideration to recommendations from the chair of the board  
6 of trustees of the university of Rhode Island. No removal shall be made for any cause except after  
7 ten (10) days' notice in writing of specific charges, with opportunity for the member to be present  
8 in person and with counsel at a public hearing before the appointing authority, to introduce  
9 witnesses and documentary evidence in his or her own defense, and to confront and cross-examine  
10 adversary witnesses; and appeal shall lie to the superior court from the governor's determination.

11 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO EDUCATION -- UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

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- 1           This act would clarify the process of appointment by transferring all appointments to the
- 2   governor subject to the advice and consent of the senate to serve on the board for terms of three (3)
- 3   years.
- 4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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