

**SB1372**



**104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**State of Illinois**

**2025 and 2026**

**SB1372**

Introduced 1/29/2025, by Sen. Chapin Rose

**SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:**

New Act

Creates the Public Higher Education Act. Provides that the intent of the Act is for the requirements of the Act to apply equally to the governing board of each public institution of higher education in this State unless the Act provides otherwise. Defines "governing board of each public institution of higher education" and "public institution of higher education". Prohibits a public university from punishing students for exercising their right to free speech. Effective immediately.

LRB104 03571 LNS 13595 b

**A BILL FOR**

1           AN ACT concerning education.

2           **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3           **represented in the General Assembly:**

4           Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Public  
5           Higher Education Act.

6           Section 5. Intent. It is the intent of the General  
7           Assembly that the requirements set forth in this Act should  
8           apply equally to each public institution of higher education  
9           in this State and to the governing board of each public  
10           institution of higher education in this State, except as  
11           otherwise provided in this Act.

12           Section 10. Definitions. As used in this Act:

13           "Governing board of each public institution of higher  
14           education" means the Board of Trustees of the University of  
15           Illinois, the Board of Trustees of Southern Illinois  
16           University, the Board of Trustees of Chicago State University,  
17           the Board of Trustees of Eastern Illinois University, the  
18           Board of Trustees of Governors State University, the Board of  
19           Trustees of Illinois State University, the Board of Trustees  
20           of Northeastern Illinois University, the Board of Trustees of  
21           Northern Illinois University, the Board of Trustees of Western  
22           Illinois University, and the board of trustees of each

1 community college district in this State.

2 "Public institution of higher education" means the  
3 University of Illinois, Southern Illinois University, Chicago  
4 State University, Eastern Illinois University, Governors State  
5 University, Illinois State University, Northeastern Illinois  
6 University, Northern Illinois University, Western Illinois  
7 University, a public community college in this State, or any  
8 other public university, college, or community college now or  
9 hereafter established or authorized by the General Assembly.

10 Section 15. Right of students to free speech. The  
11 governing board of each public institution of higher  
12 education, other than the board of trustees of a community  
13 college district, is prohibited from punishing students for  
14 exercising their right to free speech, including, without  
15 limitation, by withholding transcripts or refunds or altering  
16 a student's housing status, admission status, or current or  
17 continuing status as an enrolled student at the public  
18 institution of higher education.

19 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
20 becoming law.