



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

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.