

1 H.709  
2 Introduced by Representatives Sullivan of Burlington, Anthony of Barre City,  
3 Batchelor of Derby, Burke of Brattleboro, Carroll of  
4 Bennington, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs,  
5 Christie of Hartford, Cina of Burlington, Colburn of Burlington,  
6 Colston of Winooski, Copeland Hanzas of Bradford, Cordes of  
7 Lincoln, Demrow of Corinth, Dolan of Waitsfield, Elder of  
8 Starksboro, Fegard of Berkshire, Gardner of Richmond,  
9 Gonzalez of Winooski, Hashim of Dummerston, Hill of  
10 Wolcott, Howard of Rutland City, Killacky of South  
11 Burlington, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Kornheiser of Brattleboro,  
12 LaLonde of South Burlington, Lefebvre of Newark, Masland of  
13 Thetford, McCarthy of St. Albans City, McCormack of  
14 Burlington, McCullough of Williston, Morgan of Milton,  
15 Mrowicki of Putney, Nicoll of Ludlow, Noyes of Wolcott,  
16 O'Brien of Tunbridge, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Patt of  
17 Worcester, Ralph of Hartland, Savage of Swanton, Sheldon of  
18 Middlebury, Smith of New Haven, Squirrell of Underhill, Till  
19 of Jericho, Townsend of South Burlington, Walz of Barre City,  
20 White of Hartford, Wood of Waterbury, and Yacovone of  
21 Morristown

1 Referred to Committee on

2 Date:

3 Subject: Education; University of Vermont; Board of Trustees; gender balance

4 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require that

5 the University of Vermont Board of Trustees achieve gender balance by 2025

6 and maintain it thereafter.

7 An act relating to requiring gender balance on the University of Vermont's  
8 Board of Trustees

9 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

10 Sec. 1. 16 App. V.S.A. § 1-2 is amended to read:

11 § 1-2. BOARD OF TRUSTEES; MEMBERSHIP, TERMS OF SERVICE;

12 PRESIDING CHAIR

13 (a) The Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont and State

14 Agricultural College shall be composed of 25 members, whose term of office

15 shall be six years, except as to those who are members ex officio and to those

16 who are student members. The State goal is to have this Board achieve gender

17 balance by 2025 and maintain it thereafter. Gender balance means that the

18 Board is composed of 12 or 13 members who are women or people who

19 identify as women or nonbinary.

1       **(b)** Three members shall be appointed by the Governor with the consent of  
2       the Senate. During the legislative session of 1955, the Governor shall appoint  
3       one member for a term of two years, one member for a term of four years, and  
4       one member for a term of six years, and it shall be the duty of the Governor  
5       during the session of the Legislature prior to expiration of the term of office of  
6       any of the members to appoint for the term of six years a successor to the  
7       member whose term is expiring. The terms of office of the Trustees shall  
8       expire on the last day of February in the respective years of expiration, and the  
9       terms of office of their successors shall thereafter begin on March 1 and expire  
10      on the last day of February.

11      **(c)** Nine members shall be those who have been heretofore elected by the  
12      Legislature as members of the Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont  
13      and State Agricultural College, and whose terms have not expired, and their  
14      successors, and it shall be the duty of the Legislature at its session during  
15      which the terms of office of any class of the members expire to elect three  
16      successor members for terms of six years. The terms shall commence on  
17      March 1 in the year of election. The nine Trustees and their successors shall  
18      also constitute the Board of Trustees of the Vermont Agricultural College.

19      **(d)** Nine members shall be those who have been heretofore elected on  
20      behalf of the University of Vermont as members of the Board of Trustees of  
21      the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College and whose terms

1 have not expired, and their successors, and it shall be the duty of said nine  
2 Trustees to elect successors to fill vacancies occurring among their number  
3 upon expiration of the terms of office of any of them or otherwise. The nine  
4 Trustees and their successors shall also constitute the Board of Trustees of the  
5 University of Vermont.

6 (e) Two members shall be students enrolled at the University of Vermont  
7 and State Agricultural College. Their terms of office shall be two years. Prior  
8 to February 1, 1978, the Associated Directors for the Appointment of the  
9 University of Vermont and State Agricultural College Student Trustees,  
10 Incorporated shall select and appoint one student for a term of one year and  
11 one student for a term of two years, both of whom shall be enrolled as full-time  
12 undergraduate or full-time graduate students. Annually thereafter, the  
13 Directors shall meet to select and appoint one student trustee for a term of two  
14 years in accordance with the provisions of this section. The Directors shall fill  
15 any vacancy occurring among the student trustee members upon the expiration  
16 of the term of office of any of them or otherwise. A student shall be eligible to  
17 serve as a Trustee, provided the student is a full-time undergraduate or full-  
18 time graduate student matriculating in accordance with the degree  
19 qualifications and requirements established by the University of Vermont and  
20 State Agricultural College and if the student remains in that status throughout  
21 the length of the term of office. The term of office of a Student Trustee shall

1 begin on March 1 following the date of appointment, and the term of office  
2 shall end the last day of February in the year of expiration. Any student  
3 elected hereunder shall have reached ~~the age of~~ 18 years of age.

4 (f) All Trustees so appointed and elected as hereinbefore provided, shall,  
5 together with his or her Excellency, the Governor of the State, and the  
6 President, who shall be, ex officio, a member, constitute an entire Board of  
7 Trustees of the corporation known as the University of Vermont and State  
8 Agricultural College, who shall have the entire management and control of its  
9 property and affairs, and in all things relating thereto, except in the elections to  
10 fill vacancies, as aforesaid, shall act together jointly, as one entire Board of  
11 Trustees; provided, that all future elections or appointments to the Board of  
12 Trustees shall be made with special reference to preventing any religious  
13 denominational preponderance in the Board. The Board shall annually, at its  
14 first regular meeting after the election of new trustees, elect one of its members  
15 to serve as Chair.

16 (g) In order to achieve and maintain gender balance on the Board as  
17 required by subsection (a) of this section, Trustees shall be appointed under  
18 subsection (d) of this section to meet this goal as vacancies arise. The  
19 Secretary of the Board shall, on an annual basis on or before December 1,  
20 notify the Governor, the Speaker of the House, and the Senate President Pro  
21 Tempore on the progress in achieving gender balance on the Board, the

1 number of seats that will be vacated during the next calendar year, and the  
2 gender balance of those seats to be vacated.

3 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

4 This act shall take effect on passage.