

1 S.137

2 Introduced by Senator Baruth

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Education; University of Vermont; Vermont State Colleges; boards;
6 gender balance

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require, in
8 order to further the State goal of having balanced representation on Vermont
9 public bodies that ensures equity and the opportunity for all members of
10 society to participate based on merit, regardless of their gender or gender
11 identity, race, creed, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation,
12 disability status, or any other personal descriptor, that the University of
13 Vermont and the Vermont State Colleges, as part of their annual budget
14 presentations to the General Assembly, provide the most recent five years of
15 information on the gender composition of their respective Boards of Trustees,
16 as well as any other information the Boards have available on their diversity.

17 An act relating to gender balance on the University of Vermont and
18 Vermont State Colleges Boards

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

2 Sec. 1. GENDER BALANCE; UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT AND

3 VERMONT STATE COLLEGES BOARDS

4 (a) The Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont (UVM) currently is
5 composed of an overwhelming majority of men, with 20 men and five women.

6 The Board of Trustees of the Vermont State Colleges (VSC) currently has
7 gender balance on its Board.

8 (b) The State goal is to have balanced representation on Vermont public
9 bodies that ensures equity and the opportunity for all members of society to
10 participate based on merit, regardless of their gender or gender identity, race,
11 creed, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, disability status, or any
12 other personal descriptor. Given the gender imbalance on the UVM Board, it
13 is not clear that this goal is being met by the appointers and electing authorities
14 of Board members.

15 (c) Given that the UVM and VSC Boards have four categories of trustees,
16 which include those appointed by the Governor, those elected by the General
17 Assembly, and those elected by the self-perpetuating trustees, as well as
18 student trustees, it is incumbent on the appointing and electing authorities to
19 use their best efforts to further the State goal of ensuring that the Boards reflect
20 the balance and composition of students, faculty, and the general population

1 that they represent, recognizing that their efforts will be monitored by the
2 General Assembly and the public.

3 (d) On or before January 31, 2021 and annually thereafter, as part of their
4 annual budget presentations to the General Assembly, UVM and VSC shall
5 provide, at a minimum, the most recent five years of information on the gender
6 composition of their respective Boards of Trustees, as well as any other
7 information the Boards have available on their diversity. This information
8 shall include the appointing or electing authority, initial appointment date, and
9 length of service and shall summarize recruitment and replacement strategies
10 employed for recently expired and imminently expiring Trustee positions.

11 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

12 This act shall take effect on passage.