

1 S.71

2 Introduced by Senators White and Rodgers

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Education; Vermont State Colleges

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to revise the  
7 membership, powers, and duties of the Board of Trustees of the Vermont State  
8 Colleges.

9 An act relating to governance of the Vermont State Colleges

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

11 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. chapter 72 is amended to read:

12 CHAPTER 72. VERMONT STATE COLLEGES

13 § 2170. STATUTORY PURPOSES

14 The statutory purpose of the exemption for the Vermont State Colleges in  
15 section 2178 of this title is to allow institutions providing higher education to  
16 deploy more of their financial resources to their educational missions.

17 § 2171. CORPORATION ESTABLISHED; PURPOSES; POWERS

18 (a) There is created as a part of the educational system of the State of  
19 Vermont a public corporation to be known as “Vermont State Colleges,” which  
20 shall plan, supervise, administer, and operate facilities for education at the

1 postsecondary level supported in whole or in substantial part with State funds;  
2 however, while the Corporation shall maintain cooperative relations with the  
3 University of Vermont and State Agricultural College, nothing in this chapter  
4 shall give the ~~corporation~~ Corporation any responsibility for the planning,  
5 supervision, administration, or operation of the University.

6 (b) The Corporation shall own the real and personal property of the  
7 Castleton State College, Johnson State College, ~~and Lyndon State College,~~  
8 ~~teachers colleges and the Vermont Agricultural and Technical Institute~~  
9 Vermont Technical College, Community College of Vermont, and of other  
10 ~~state-operated~~ State-operated institutions of higher education that may be  
11 established. It shall protect, preserve, and improve the properties and promote  
12 their use as institutions of higher education.

13 (c) The Corporation may acquire, hold, and dispose of property in fee or in  
14 trust, or any other estate, except as provided in subsection (d) of this section,  
15 shall have a common seal, and shall be an instrumentality of the State for the  
16 purposes set forth in this section. The State of Vermont shall support and  
17 maintain the Corporation.

18 (d) The Corporation shall not abandon, lease, sell, or dispose of any of the  
19 institutions under its control unless that action is specifically authorized by the  
20 General Assembly. The terms of any such sale, lease, or other disposal shall

1 be prescribed by the Agency of Administration, with the approval of the  
2 Governor, within the terms of the authorization of the General Assembly.

3 (e) The Corporation may make expenditures for capital improvements.  
4 The Corporation is authorized to borrow money for building purposes, to give  
5 security that may be required, and to execute necessary related instruments,  
6 and is also authorized to accept, use, and administer any funds made available  
7 to it for any of its corporate purposes by the United States or any of its  
8 agencies, and to agree to any terms and conditions that may be required that  
9 are not inconsistent with its corporate purposes.

10 § 2172. TRUSTEES; APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES

11 (a) The Corporation shall be governed by a board of 15 trustees who shall  
12 be appointed or elected as follows:

13 (1) Biennially the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate,  
14 shall appoint trustees to serve for ~~six-year~~ four-year terms expiring March 1 of  
15 the year of the biennial session. ~~Nine~~ Five trustees may be in office at one  
16 time under this subdivision. In the event of any vacancy occurring between  
17 biennial sessions in an office under this subdivision, the Governor pursuant to  
18 3 V.S.A. § 257; shall fill the ~~same, which appointment shall terminate~~  
19 vacancy, and the term of a person so appointed shall expire on March 1 in the  
20 year of the next following biennial session.

1           (2)(A) One trustee shall be a student trustee:

2                    (A)(i) who ~~shall be~~ is a matriculated student at an educational  
3 institution operated by the Vermont State Colleges ~~corporation~~ Corporation;

4                    (B)(ii) who ~~shall be~~ is pursuing a degree program; and

5                    (C)(iii) who ~~shall have~~ has reached the age of majority.

6            (B) The student trustee shall serve a one-year term expiring on  
7 June 1. The student trustee shall be appointed, and a vacancy may be filled,  
8 from among those eligible students applying for the position by the decision of  
9 those members of the steering committee of the Vermont State Colleges  
10 Student Association who have been elected at large to that committee by the  
11 students at their respective colleges. ~~No college may be represented by a~~  
12 ~~student trustee for more than two consecutive terms, and no~~ No student trustee  
13 may serve more than two consecutive terms.

14           (3) Four trustees shall be legislative trustees who are members of the  
15 General Assembly at the time of their election. Legislative trustees shall serve  
16 four-year terms expiring on March 1 of the second year of the biennial session,  
17 and they shall be elected by joint assembly of the Legislature. Vacancies for  
18 any cause shall be filled by the General Assembly at ~~the next session~~ its  
19 earliest opportunity and the term of a person so appointed shall expire on  
20 March 1 of the next even numbered year.

1           (4) Four trustees shall be elected by the Board of Trustees to four-year  
2           terms expiring on March 1. Vacancies for any cause shall be filled by the  
3           remaining members of the Board of Trustees, and the term of the person so  
4           appointed shall expire on the next following March 1.

5           (b) Appointments by the Governor and elections by the General Assembly  
6           shall be made with consideration of the geographic distribution of members to  
7           prevent an unfair focus on any single college.

8           (c) No trustee shall be a member of the Board of Trustees of the University  
9           of Vermont.

10          (d) The Governor, in the case of gubernatorial-appointed trustees, or the  
11          Board of Trustees, in the case of Board-elected trustees:

12           (1) after notice and a hearing, may remove a trustee for incompetency,  
13           failure to discharge duties, malfeasance, illegal acts, or other cases inimical to  
14           the welfare of the Corporation; and

15           (2) in the event of a vacancy occurring under this subsection, shall fill  
16           the vacancy pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

17          § 2173. BOARD OF TRUSTEES; ORGANIZATION

18           In addition to the 14 elected and appointed trustees, the Board of Trustees  
19           shall include as a member the Governor of Vermont. A majority of the trustees  
20           shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. ~~Annually~~ Biennially,  
21           the Board shall elect one of its voting members to serve as its chair.





1           (2) The Board shall elect two trustees, selected pursuant to Sec. 1,  
2           16 V.S.A. § 2172(a)(4), to fill two self-perpetuating four-year Board seats with  
3           terms commencing on March 1.

4           (c) In 2019:

5           (1) On March 1, one of the three gubernatorial-appointed Board seats  
6           expiring on that date shall be eliminated. The Governor shall appoint two  
7           trustees to fill the remaining two seats for four-year terms commencing on  
8           March 1.

9           (2) The Board shall elect a trustee, selected pursuant to Sec. 1,  
10          16 V.S.A. § 2172(a)(4), to fill one self-perpetuating four-year Board seat with  
11          a term commencing on March 1.

12          (d) In 2021:

13          (1) On March 1, one of the three gubernatorial-appointed Board seats  
14          expiring on that date shall be eliminated. The Governor shall appoint two  
15          trustees to fill the remaining two seats for four-year terms commencing on  
16          March 1.

17          (2) The Board shall elect a trustee, selected pursuant to Sec. 1,  
18          16 V.S.A. § 2172(a)(4), to fill one self-perpetuating four-year Board seat with  
19          a term commencing on March 1.

20          Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

21          This act shall take effect on July 15, 2015.