

1-1 By: Wentworth S.B. No. 276  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed January 23, 2007; January 30, 2007,  
1-3 read first time and referred to Subcommittee on Higher Education;  
1-4 April 2, 2007, reported adversely, with favorable Committee  
1-5 Substitute from Committee on Education by the following vote:  
1-6 Yeas 9, Nays 0; April 2, 2007, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 276 By: Williams

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to student members of the board of regents of a state  
1-11 university or state university system.

1-12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-13 SECTION 1. Section 51.355, Education Code, as added by  
1-14 Chapters 292 and 1181, Acts of the 79th Legislature, Regular  
1-15 Session, 2005, is amended by amending Subsections (c) and (d) and  
1-16 adding Subsections (d-1), (h), and (i) to read as follows:

1-17 (c) Except as provided by Subsection (f), not later than  
1-18 November [~~September~~] 1 of each year, the student government of each  
1-19 general academic teaching institution and medical and dental unit  
1-20 in a university system shall solicit applicants for appointment to  
1-21 the next regular term of the position of student regent. Not later  
1-22 than January [~~November~~] 1, from among the applications received by  
1-23 the student government, the student government shall select five  
1-24 applicants as the student government's recommendations for the  
1-25 position of student regent and send the applications of those  
1-26 applicants [~~, with the name of each applicant and the name of the~~  
1-27 ~~institution or unit in which the applicant is enrolled removed,~~] to  
1-28 the chancellor of the university system. From among those  
1-29 applicants, the chancellor shall select two or more applicants as  
1-30 the university system's recommendations for the position of student  
1-31 regent and shall send the applications of those applicants to the  
1-32 governor not later than February [~~December~~] 1. The governor may  
1-33 request to review all applications for the position of student  
1-34 regent received by the student governments and may request an  
1-35 applicant to submit additional information to the governor [~~to~~  
1-36 ~~review information required to be removed from an application by a~~  
1-37 ~~student government under this subsection~~]. On June [~~February~~] 1,  
1-38 or as soon thereafter as practicable, the governor shall appoint  
1-39 one of the applicants to serve as the student regent for the system  
1-40 for a one-year term expiring on the next May 31 [~~February 1~~]. The  
1-41 governor is not required to appoint an applicant recommended by the  
1-42 chancellor.

1-43 (d) To be eligible for appointment as student regent, a  
1-44 person [~~A student regent~~] must be enrolled as an undergraduate or  
1-45 graduate student in a general academic teaching institution or  
1-46 medical and dental unit in the university system and be in good  
1-47 academic standing as determined by the institution at the time of  
1-48 appointment. The person must remain enrolled at the institution  
1-49 [~~and~~] throughout the person's term as a student regent [~~regent's~~  
1-50 ~~term~~]. For purposes of this subsection, a person is considered to  
1-51 be enrolled in an institution or unit for a summer term if the  
1-52 person was enrolled in the institution or unit for the preceding  
1-53 semester and:

1-54 (1) is registered or preregistered at the institution  
1-55 or unit for the following fall semester;

1-56 (2) if the person has not completed the person's degree  
1-57 program, is eligible to continue the degree program at the  
1-58 institution or unit in the following fall semester; or

1-59 (3) if the person completed a degree program in the  
1-60 preceding semester, is admitted to another degree program at the  
1-61 institution or unit for the following fall semester.

1-62 (d-1) Throughout a student regent's term, the student  
1-63 regent must maintain a grade point average of at least 2.5 on a

2-1 four-point scale. The president of the institution in which the  
 2-2 student regent is enrolled shall notify the governor if the student  
 2-3 regent fails to maintain the qualifications required by this  
 2-4 section.

2-5 (h) On receiving notice under Subsection (d-1) from the  
 2-6 president of the institution in which the student regent is  
 2-7 enrolled that the student regent has failed to maintain the  
 2-8 qualifications required by this section, the governor shall declare  
 2-9 the position of student regent vacant and as soon as practicable  
 2-10 fill the vacancy in the manner prescribed by Subsection (g).

2-11 (i) A student regent serves without compensation but is  
 2-12 entitled to be reimbursed for the actual expenses incurred by the  
 2-13 student regent in attending the meetings of the board of regents,  
 2-14 subject to the approval of the chairman of the board of regents.

2-15 SECTION 2. Section 51.356, Education Code, is amended by  
 2-16 amending Subsections (d) and (e) and adding Subsections (e-1), (h),  
 2-17 and (i) to read as follows:

2-18 (d) Not later than November [~~September~~] 1 of each year, the  
 2-19 student government of the general academic teaching institution  
 2-20 shall solicit applicants for appointment to the next regular term  
 2-21 of the position of student regent. Not later than January  
 2-22 [November] 1, from among the applications received by the student  
 2-23 government, the student government shall select five applicants as  
 2-24 the student government's recommendations for the position of  
 2-25 student regent and send the applications of those applicants  
 2-26 [, with the name of each applicant removed,] to the president of the  
 2-27 institution. From among those applicants, the president shall  
 2-28 select two or more applicants as the institution's recommendations  
 2-29 for the position of student regent and shall send the applications  
 2-30 of those applicants to the governor not later than February  
 2-31 [December] 1. The governor may request to review all applications  
 2-32 for the position of student regent received by the student  
 2-33 government and may request an applicant to submit additional  
 2-34 information to the governor [~~to review information required to be~~  
 2-35 ~~removed from an application by the student government under this~~  
 2-36 ~~subsection]. On June [~~February~~] 1, or as soon thereafter as  
 2-37 practicable, the governor shall appoint one of the applicants to  
 2-38 serve as the student regent for the institution for a one-year term  
 2-39 expiring on the next May 31 [~~February 1~~]. The governor is not  
 2-40 required to appoint an applicant recommended by the president.~~

2-41 (e) To be eligible for appointment as student regent, a  
 2-42 person [~~A student regent~~] must be enrolled as an undergraduate or  
 2-43 graduate student in the general academic teaching institution and  
 2-44 be in good academic standing as determined by the institution at the  
 2-45 time of appointment. The person must remain enrolled at the  
 2-46 institution [~~and~~] throughout the person's term as a student regent  
 2-47 [regent's term]. For purposes of this subsection, a person is  
 2-48 considered to be enrolled in an institution for a summer term if the  
 2-49 person was enrolled in the institution for the preceding semester  
 2-50 and:

2-51 (1) is registered or preregistered at the institution  
 2-52 for the following fall semester;

2-53 (2) if the person has not completed the person's degree  
 2-54 program, is eligible to continue the degree program at the  
 2-55 institution in the following fall semester; or

2-56 (3) if the person completed a degree program in the  
 2-57 preceding semester, is admitted to another degree program at the  
 2-58 institution for the following fall semester.

2-59 (e-1) Throughout a student regent's term, the student  
 2-60 regent must maintain a grade point average of at least 2.5 on a  
 2-61 four-point scale. The president of the institution in which the  
 2-62 student regent is enrolled shall notify the governor if the student  
 2-63 regent fails to maintain the qualifications required by this  
 2-64 section.

2-65 (h) On receiving notice under Subsection (e-1) from the  
 2-66 president of the institution that the student regent has failed to  
 2-67 maintain the qualifications required by this section, the governor  
 2-68 shall declare the position of student regent vacant and as soon as  
 2-69 practicable fill the vacancy in the manner prescribed by Subsection

3-1 (g).

3-2 (i) A student regent serves without compensation but is  
3-3 entitled to be reimbursed for the actual expenses incurred by the  
3-4 student regent in attending the meetings of the board of regents,  
3-5 subject to the approval of the chairman of the board of regents.

3-6 SECTION 3. The changes in law made by this Act apply to a  
3-7 student regent on the board of regents of a state university system  
3-8 or state university serving on or appointed after the effective  
3-9 date of this Act.

3-10 SECTION 4. The term of a student regent on the board of  
3-11 regents of a state university system or state university that under  
3-12 the law in effect immediately before the effective date of this Act  
3-13 was to expire February 1, 2008, is extended to expire on May 31,  
3-14 2008.

3-15 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
3-16 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
3-17 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
3-18 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
3-19 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

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