

SUBJECT: Authority of a higher education board members

COMMITTEE: Higher Education — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 7 ayes — Rangel, Cuellar, F. Brown, Farabee, J. Jones, Morrison, E. Reyna
0 nays
2 absent — Goolsby, Wohlgemuth

WITNESSES: None

DIGEST: HB 1056 would forbid an individual member of a higher education institution's or university system's governing board to supervise, direct, or participate in supervising or directing day-to-day operations. It would not affect the individual member's authority to participate in setting policy, adopting rules, or other official functions and duties of the board.

SUPPORTERS SAY: HB 1056 would define clearly the boundaries for a board member's actions. It would eliminate situations in which an individual board member directs university officials to perform their duties in certain ways. For example, at one institution, a board member was coaching the football and basketball teams. Unfortunately, there is a long history of regents improperly interfering with day-to-day administration of universities. This bill would eliminate such gross micromanagement problems at higher education institutions.

OPPONENTS SAY: HB 1056 would accomplish nothing other than to state how in theory board members are supposed to act. Board members, by the nature of their policy-making positions, influence day-to-day operations. A board member could continue to exert pressure or influence, subtle or direct, on staff members to perform their duties according to the board member's wishes.