

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETIETH SESSION

S.F. No. 2611

(SENATE AUTHORS: FISCHBACH)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
02/22/2018	6166	Introduction and first reading
		Referred to Higher Education Finance and Policy
03/21/2018		Comm report: To pass as amended and re-refer to State Government Finance and Policy and Elections

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to higher education; modifying the process for electing members of the

1.3 Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota; providing for recommendations

1.4 by congressional district legislative delegation; amending Minnesota Statutes 2016,

1.5 sections 137.0245, subdivisions 1, 4; 137.0246, subdivision 2, by adding a

1.6 subdivision.

1.7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.8 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 137.0245, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

1.9 Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** A Regent Candidate Advisory Council is established to

1.10 assist in determining criteria for, and identifying and recruiting qualified candidates for

1.11 membership on the Board of Regents and making recommendations for at-large positions

1.12 on the board to the joint legislative committee described in section 137.0246, subdivision

1.13 2.

1.14 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 137.0245, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

1.15 Subd. 4. **Recommendations.** (a) The advisory council shall recommend at least two and

1.16 not more than four candidates for each at-large position. By January 15 of each odd-numbered

1.17 year, the advisory council shall submit its recommendations to the joint legislative committee

1.18 described in section 137.0246, subdivision 2.

1.19 (b) The advisory council must submit a report to the joint committee on the needs criterion

1.20 identified under subdivision 3, paragraph (c), at the same time it submits its recommendations.

2.1 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 137.0246, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

2.2 Subd. 2. **Regent nomination joint committee.** (a) The joint legislative committee
2.3 consists of the members of the higher education budget and policy divisions in each house
2.4 of the legislature. The chairs of the divisions from each body shall be cochairs of the joint
2.5 legislative committee. A majority of the members from each house is a quorum of the joint
2.6 committee.

2.7 (b) By February 28 of each odd-numbered year, or at a date agreed to by concurrent
2.8 resolution, the joint legislative committee shall meet to consider the advisory council's
2.9 recommendations for at-large positions of regent of the University of Minnesota for possible
2.10 presentation to a joint convention of the legislature.

2.11 (c) The joint committee may recommend to the joint convention candidates for at-large
2.12 positions recommended by the advisory council and the other candidates nominated by the
2.13 joint committee. A candidate other than those recommended by the advisory council may
2.14 be nominated for consideration by the joint committee only if the nomination receives the
2.15 support of at least three house of representatives members of the committee and two senate
2.16 members of the committee.

2.17 (d) A candidate must receive a majority vote of members from the house of
2.18 representatives and from the senate on the joint committee to be recommended to the joint
2.19 convention. The joint committee may recommend no more than one candidate for each
2.20 vacancy. In recommending nominees, the joint committee must consider the needs of the
2.21 board of regents and the balance of the board membership with respect to gender, racial,
2.22 and ethnic composition.

2.23 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 137.0246, is amended by adding a subdivision
2.24 to read:

2.25 Subd. 3. **Congressional district legislative delegation.** (a) A congressional district
2.26 legislative delegation consists of the members of the legislature whose districts include
2.27 territory within that congressional district. A member of the legislature may participate as
2.28 a member of the delegation for each congressional district in which that member's legislative
2.29 district is located.

2.30 (b) The chair of each delegation shall be the member of that delegation having the greatest
2.31 total seniority in the legislature. If one member is eligible to chair more than one delegation,
2.32 that member must choose only one delegation to chair, and the next most senior members
2.33 shall chair any remaining delegations.

3.1 (c) By February 28 of each odd-numbered year, or at a date agreed to by concurrent
3.2 resolution, the congressional district legislative delegation shall meet to consider
3.3 recommendations for regent of the University of Minnesota to represent that congressional
3.4 district.

3.5 (d) Each senator shall have ten total votes, and each representative shall have five total
3.6 votes. Members whose districts are located in more than one congressional district shall
3.7 have their votes divided proportionally by population among the delegations for which they
3.8 are eligible, provided that all members shall have at least one vote in each delegation for
3.9 which they are eligible. In any round of voting, a member may vote for no more than one
3.10 candidate, and the member's total allotment of votes shall be allocated to the candidate for
3.11 whom that member votes. A simple majority of all votes cast shall prevail.

3.12 (e) The recommendation of the congressional district legislative delegation must be
3.13 presented to the joint convention of the legislature. The legislative delegation may
3.14 recommend no more than one candidate. In recommending nominees, the legislative
3.15 delegation must consider the needs of the Board of Regents and the balance of the board
3.16 membership with respect to gender, racial, and ethnic composition.