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HOUSE . . . . . No. 8

So much of the recommendations of the Inspector General (House, No. 7) as relates to higher education boards of trustees. Higher Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)

An Act relative to higher education boards of trustees.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 21 of chapter 15A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof the following paragraph:-

The department of higher education, in this section called the department, shall establish and implement a comprehensive training program for members. The department shall provide instruction and training to members on the proper management of an institution of higher education. The instruction and training shall include, but not be limited to, the following laws and topics: (i) the open meeting law established pursuant to sections 18 to 25, inclusive, of chapter 30A; (ii) the public records law established pursuant to chapter 66; (iii) the conflict of interest law established pursuant to chapter 268A; (iv) procurement law; (v) state finance provisions established pursuant to chapter 29; (vi) fraud prevention; and (vii) fiduciary responsibilities. The department shall consult with the attorney general and the inspector general in developing instruction and training programs pursuant to this section.

Within 6 months of being appointed or elected, every member shall complete a training program, as developed by the department. Thereafter members shall complete a training program within 2 years of the date of the member's last training. Membership on the board of trustees shall terminate if a member fails to complete a training program within 6 months of appointment or election as a member, or fails to complete a training program within 2 years of the date of the member's last training, and a vacancy shall be deemed to exist. Any vacancy on a board of trustees shall be filled for the duration of the term in the same manner as the prior appointment. The chairman shall forthwith notify the governor when any vacancy exists.

SECTION 2. Section 1A of chapter 75 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof the following paragraph:-

Within 6 months of being appointed or elected, every member shall complete the training program developed by the department of higher education under section 21 of chapter 15A. Thereafter, members shall complete a training program within 2 years of the date of the member's last training. Membership on the board of trustees shall terminate if a member fails to complete a training program within 6 months of appointment or election as a member, or fails to complete a training program within 2 years of the date of the member's last training, and a vacancy shall be deemed to exist. Any vacancy on a board of trustees shall be filled for the duration of the term in the same manner as the prior appointment. The chairman shall forthwith notify the governor when any vacancy exists.