



# HOUSE BILL 188: Trustee Appointments/Isothermal Comm. Coll

2015-2016 General Assembly

**Committee:** Rules and Operations of the Senate  
**Introduced by:** Rep. Hager  
**Analysis of:** Third Edition

**Date:** September 16, 2015  
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Committee Counsel

**SUMMARY:** *HB 188 would eliminate the 4 appointments of the local boards of education to the board of trustees of Isothermal Community College and require the Rutherford and Polk County Commissioners to make those appointments, subject to certain requirements.*

**CURRENT LAW:** G.S. 115D-12 establishes the local boards of trustees for community colleges. There are thirteen members on each board, including the president of the student body as an ex officio member. Of the remaining twelve members, they are appointed in groups of four respectively by the following entities:

- 1) The board(s) of education of the local school administrative unit(s) located in the administrative area of the institution.
- 2) The board(s) of commissioners of the county or counties in the administrative area of the institution.
- 3) The Governor.

The statute places the following requirements and restrictions on membership:

- 1) No member of the General Assembly may be appointed to a local board of trustees for a community college.
- 2) All trustees must be residents of the administrative area of the institution for which they are selected or of counties contiguous thereto with the exception of members appointed by the Governor.
- 3) No person who has been employed full time by the community college within the prior 5 years and no spouse or child of a person currently employed full time by the community college shall serve on the board of trustees of that college.
- 4) No board of education may elect a member of the board of education or any person employed by the board of education to serve as a trustee.
- 5) No more than one trustee from appointed by the board of county commissioners may be a member of a board of county commissioners.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** House Bill 188 would create a local modification to the appointment procedures for the board of trustees of Isothermal Community College. Three of the trustees previously appointed by the local board of education would instead be appointed by the Rutherford County Commissioners, and one would be appointed by the Polk County Commissioners.

Combined with the members currently appointed, the Rutherford County Commissioners (Rutherford) would appoint seven members. Beginning in the following years, and every 4 years thereafter, Rutherford would appoint: 2 members in 2016, 1 member in 2017, 2 members in 2018, and 2 members in 2019. Rutherford must ensure that, among those appointments, at least one member has experience in small business, one member has experiences in private sector accounting or budgeting, and one member has experience in building maintenance or equipment.

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Combined with the members currently appointed, the Polk County Commissioners (Polk) would appoint three members. Beginning in the following years, and every 4 years thereafter, Polk would appoint: 1 member in 2016, 1 member in 2017, and 1 member in 2018. Polk must ensure that, among those appointments, at least one member has experience in small business.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** HB 188 would become effective when it becomes law, and apply to appointments to terms beginning on or after July 1, 2016. The requirement to appoint members with certain background experiences must be met no later than July 1, 2019.

**BACKGROUND:** The administrative service area for Isothermal Community College is Polk and Rutherford Counties.