

1 SB339  
2 165072-2  
3 By Senator Waggoner  
4 RFD: Education and Youth Affairs  
5 First Read: 07-APR-15

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8 SYNOPSIS: Existing law does not require any specific  
9 ethics training for persons serving on boards of  
10 trustees of public institutions of higher education  
11 in the state.

12 This bill would require currently serving  
13 and future trustees to complete mandatory training  
14 on the State Ethics Law, board governance, and  
15 relevant accreditation standards.

16 This bill would also subject currently  
17 serving and future trustees to the State Ethics Law  
18 and would require each to annually file a statement  
19 of economic interests with the State Ethics  
20 Commission.

21  
22 A BILL  
23 TO BE ENTITLED  
24 AN ACT

25  
26 Relating to members of higher education boards of  
27 trustees; to require each trustee to complete mandatory

1 training on the State Ethics Law, board governance, and  
2 relevant accreditation standards; to subject each trustee to  
3 the State Ethics Law; and to require each trustee to annually  
4 file a statement of economic interests.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

6 Section 1. (a) Each public institution of higher  
7 education in the state that is governed by a board of trustees  
8 shall require mandatory trustee training on the State Ethics  
9 Law, board governance, and relevant accreditation standards.  
10 The training shall include, but not be limited to, information  
11 relating to Southern Association of Colleges and Schools  
12 accreditation standards and policies for each institution that  
13 is accredited by that association.

14 (b) The training required by this section shall be  
15 provided for all trustees who are then serving within six  
16 months after the effective date of this section and within 30  
17 days after appointment for any trustee appointed to serve  
18 thereafter.

19 (c) No official action may be taken or vote cast by  
20 any trustee who has not completed the training required by  
21 this section.

22 (d) Any finding of wrongdoing by the Southern  
23 Association of Colleges and Schools that implicates a trustee  
24 of any public institution of higher education in this state by  
25 name shall result in that trustee being immediately dismissed  
26 from the board on which he or she serves.

1           (e) Each trustee appointed to serve on a board of  
2 trustees of a public institution of higher education in the  
3 state is subject to the State Ethics Law, Chapter 25, Title  
4 36, Code of Alabama 1975, and required to file a statement of  
5 economic interests pursuant to Section 36-25-14, Code of  
6 Alabama 1975, with the State Ethics Commission. A trustee  
7 serving on the effective date of this section shall file a  
8 statement of economic interests within 60 days after the  
9 effective date of this section, and annually thereafter while  
10 serving as a trustee, as required by the commission. A trustee  
11 appointed to serve after the effective date of this section  
12 shall file a statement of economic interests within 30 days  
13 after service commences, and annually thereafter while serving  
14 as a trustee, as required by the commission.

15           (f) In addition to the disclosures required by  
16 subsection (e), each trustee appointed to serve on a board of  
17 trustees of a public institution of higher education in the  
18 state shall file an additional disclosure with the State  
19 Ethics Commission detailing all business relationships and  
20 transactions with any other trustee who is serving on the same  
21 board.

22           (g) It is the intent of the Legislature that  
23 constitutionally created boards of trustees comply with the  
24 requirements of this section.

25           Section 2. This act shall become effective on the  
26 first day of the third month following its passage and  
27 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

