

Legislative Bill Drafting Commission
13393-03-1

IN SENATE

Patricia Ritchie

Senate introducer's signature

The senators whose names are circled below wish to join me in the sponsorship of this proposal

S. -----
Senate

s20 Adams	s44 Farley	s58 Kennedy	s18 Montgomery	s23 Savino
s35 Addabbo	s02 Flanagan	s34 Klein	s54 Norzolio	s28 Serrano
s55 Alessi	s08 Fuschillo	s26 Krueger	s53 O'Mara	s51 Seward
s11 Avella	s59 Gallivan	s27 Kruger	s37 Oppenheimer	s09 Skelce
s40 Bell	s12 Giabarisi	s24 Lanza	s21 Parker	s14 Smith
s42 Bonacic	s22 Golden	s39 Larkin	s13 Peralta	s25 Squedron
s46 Braslin	s47 Griffo	s01 LaValla	s30 Perkins	s16 Stavisky
s38 Carlucci	s60 Grisenti	s52 Libous	s61 Ranzenhofzer	s35 Stewart
s50 DeFrancisco	s06 Hanson	s45 Little	s48 Ritchie	Cousins
s32 Diaz	s36 Kessell-	s05 Marcellino	s33 Rivera	s49 Valesky
s17 Dilan	Thompson	s07 Martins	s56 Robach	s57 Young
s29 Duane	s10 Hunrley	s62 Marazz	s41 Saland	s03 Zeldis
s31 Espalliet	s04 Johnson	s43 McDonald	s19 Sampson	

IN SENATE--Introduced by Sen
Ritchie

--read twice and ordered printed,
and when printed to be committed
to the Committee on

----- A.
Assembly

IN ASSEMBLY

Assembly introducer's signature

The Members of the Assembly whose names are circled below wish to join me in the multi-sponsorship of this proposal:

IN ASSEMBLY--Introduced by M. of A.

a049 Abbate	a014 Curran	a135 Johns	a103 Molinaro	a029 Scarborough
a092 Abinanti	a063 Cusick	a117 Jordan	a015 Monteano	a016 Schinzel
a105 Amadore	a045 Cymbrowitz	a099 Katz	a132 Moralle	a140 Schimfager
a084 Arroyo	a034 DanDakker	a074 Kavanagh	a039 Moyo	a145 Schroeder
a035 Aubry	a081 Dinowitz	a065 Kellner	a003 Murray	a064 Silver
a124 Barolay	a114 Dupray	a100 Kirwan	a037 Nolan	a036 Simotas
a040 Barron	a004 Englebright	a129 Kolb	a128 Oaks	a146 Smardz
a092 Benedetto	a071 Farrell	a025 Lancman	a069 O'Donnell	a093 Spano
a122 Blankenbush	a123 Finch	a091 Latimer	a051 Ortiz	a079 Stevenson
a055 Boyland	a007 Fitzpatrick	a033 Lavina	a136 Palmesano	a011 Sweeney
a008 Boyle	a137 Friend	a050 Lentol	a088 Paulin	a110 Tedisco
a026 Braunstein	a143 Gabryszak	a125 Lifton	a141 Peoples-	a115 Tenney
a044 Brennan	a090 Galef	a072 Linares	Stokes	a002 Thiele
a131 Bronson	a133 Gantt	a127 Lopez, P.	a050 Perry	a061 Titone
a046 Brook-Krasny	a077 Gibson	a053 Lopes, V.	a087 Pretlow	a011 Titus
a147 Burling	a149 Giglio	a001 Losquadro	a021 Ra	a062 Tobacco
a117 Butler	a066 Glick	a126 Luperdo	a097 Rabbitt	a041 Weinstein
a101 Cabill	a150 Goodell	a111 Magee	a009 Rain	a020 Weisenberg
a096 Calhoun	a075 Gottfried	a120 Magnarelli	a006 Rams	a024 Weprin
a043 Camara	a005 Graf	a059 Meisel	a134 Reilich	a070 Wright
a106 Canestrari	a098 Gunther	a060 Malliotekia	a109 Reilly	a094 Zebrowski
a089 Castelli	a130 Hanna	a020 Markey	a078 Rivera, J.	a023
a086 Castro	a139 Hawley	a019 McDonough	a080 Rivera, N.	a027
a118 Ceretto	a148 Hayes	a104 McEaney	a076 Rivora, P.	a054
a033 Clark	a083 Heastie	a037 McKavitt	a129 Roberts	a073
a047 Colton	a028 Revesi	a108 McLaughlin	a056 Robinson	a116
a010 Conte	a048 Sikind	a022 Heng	a068 Rodriguez	a144
a032 Cook	a018 Hooper	a102 Miller, J.	a118 Russell	
a142 Corwin	a042 Jacobs	a121 Miller, D.	a067 Rosenthal	
a085 Craspo	a095 Jaffee	a038 Miller, M.	a012 Saladino	
a107 Crouch	a057 Jeffries	a052 Millman	a113 Sayward	

with M. of A. as co-sponsors

--read once and referred to the
Committee on

EDUCLA

(Requires the state university of NY
trustees to appoint a president for
each state-operated institution in
the state university, authorizes the
council to approve or)

Ed L. apptmt. of SUNY presidents

AN ACT

to amend the education law, in
relation to requiring the state
university of New York trustees to
appoint a president for each state-
operated institution in the state
university and authorizing the coun-
cil of each state-operated institu-
tion to approve or reject the
appointment of a president for such
state-operated institution

1) Single House Bill (introduced and printed separately in either or both
houses). Uni-Bill (introduced simultaneously in both houses and printed as one
bill. Senate and Assembly introducer sign the same copy of the bill).

2) Circle names of co-sponsors and return to introduction clerk with 2 signed
copies of bill and 4 copies of memorandum in support (single house); or 4 signed
copies of bill and 8 copies of memorandum in support (uni-bill).

09/01/11

2

13393-03-1

The People of the State of New
York, represented in Senate and
Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Paragraph g of subdivision 2 of section 355 of the educa-
2 tion law, as amended by chapter 552 of the laws of 1985, is amended to
3 read as follows:

4 g. To appoint the [head] president of each state-operated institution
5 in the state university upon the recommendation made to them by the
6 council of such institution in accordance with the rules and standards
7 established by the state university trustees; or if such recommendation
8 is not made or does not comply with such rules and standards, then to
9 make such appointment as is by them deemed necessary; to prescribe the
10 functions, powers, and duties of the [head] president of each such
11 institution; and to appoint or provide for the appointment of the
12 members of the instructional and administrative staffs, and such other
13 employees as may be necessary, at each state-operated institution upon
14 the recommendation of the [head] president thereof and prescribe or
15 provide for the prescription of their duties. One president shall be
16 appointed for each state-operated institution in the state university.
17 No individual shall serve concurrently as president of two or more
18 state-operated institutions in the state university.

19 § 2. Paragraph a of subdivision 3 of section 356 of the education law,
20 as amended by chapter 552 of the laws of 1985, is amended to read as
21 follows:

22 a. recommend to the state university trustees candidates for appoint-
23 ment by the state university trustees as [head] president of such insti-
24 tution and approve or reject any appointment by the chancellor and trus-
25 tees of a candidate as the president of such institution;

26 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

SPONSOR'S MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

SPONSOR: RITCHIE

TITLE:

An act to amend the to amend the Education Law, in relation to requiring the New York state university trustees to appoint a president for each state-operated institution in the state university

PURPOSE:

To provide that every SUNY institution has its own president and ensure local community involvement in selecting a leader for college campuses.

SUMMARY:

Section 1 amends section 355 of the Education Law to clarify that one president shall be appointed for each state-operated institution in the state university and will not serve another institution concurrently.

Section 2 amends section 356 of the Education Law to give the college council of a state university institution, the ability to accept or reject the board of trustees' appointment for president of that institution.

Section 3 provides for the immediate effectiveness of the act.

JUSTIFICATION:

New York's state university is unique among large public universities in the level of autonomy granted to its 64 individual campuses. With strong, independent leadership, and substantial support and encouragement from local communities, the most successful of these colleges have developed a level of specialization in character and curriculum rarely seen in other public university systems, and which has helped make SUNY a recognized leader in research and academics.

Recently, the chancellor announced a plan to encourage sharing among selected campuses, and directed the elimination of the president's positions at three colleges located in Canton, Morrisville and Cobleskill, each of which will now utilize a shared presidency with another college.

While it is critical that SUNY, like every other state agency and level of government, should strive to maximize its use of taxpayer and tuition dollars, and find efficiencies that enable it to achieve its vital mission of helping students succeed, the elimination of the president's position

at each of these three colleges is short-sighted and ill-advised. There are many other areas where campuses can realize cost savings without undermining their character and mission, which would result from this proposal.

The role of a college president is multi-faceted, and crucial to the success of any institution of higher learning. The president is the public face of a college campus, serving as chief marketer, advocate and a key to private fundraising that can enhance a college's ability to achieve its mission, and a leading figure in the local community. A successful college—both public and private—is often marked by a chief executive who is passionate about his or her school's mission and curriculum, and devotes a significant amount of time and energy to becoming personally familiar with the campus' student body, as well as with leaders and individuals in the surrounding community.

Under its current leader, SUNY Canton, for example, has grown from a two year school to now offer a number of four year degrees. In January 2011, Canton moved into their new athletic center and through the leadership of their president, fully funded the construction of new on-campus housing through private donations. This progress would never have been possible without the president's intimate involvement in fostering a strong relationship with Canton's community.

There are very few examples of major public colleges throughout the nation that employ a shared presidents model—it is not the norm in leading public university systems. In the few cases where shared presidencies have been implemented, there is first hand evidence that such a model can have a negative long term effect on issues like fundraising, mission-creep, and the ability to maintain a campus' unique, individual character.

It is alarming that the three colleges selected for this experimental realignment are all unique in that they represent the only campuses in the state university system that emphasize an agricultural curriculum. As the state's leading industry, it is essential that the state devote sufficient resources and support to ensuring the best possible academic and practical preparation and training for the next generation of farmers and agribusiness leaders through its public university system. The elimination of presidents at these institutions can be viewed as the public university system abandoning its long-held role at a time when the industry faces unprecedented challenges, with deep potential consequences to a vast geographic area of the state.

The three colleges selected for shared presidency are hardly proximate, geographically or in mission. While the Canton and Potsdam campuses are some 12 miles apart, SUNY-IT and Morrisville college, Delhi and Cobleskill are 40 and 50 miles apart, respectively. Each college differs significantly in its historic mission from its proposed partner.

Additionally, the legislation seeks to clarify the role of individual campus councils in approving or disapproving the selection of a college president. While the authority to appoint a college president would remain with the board of trustees, college councils would be required to give

their assent. This provision would help to promote stronger bonds between neighbors of colleges that have a major impact on surrounding communities, academically, culturally and as major employers.

HISTORY:

New bill.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

This act shall take effect immediately.