



HOUSE REPUBLICAN STAFF ANALYSIS

Bill:	HF 2488/HSB 537	House Committee:	
Committee:	Education	House Floor:	
Floor Manager	Representative Holt	Senate Floor:	
Date:	February 24, 2026	Governor:	
Staff:	Kristin Rozeboom (1-3015)		

No ITG for DEI

- A private institution shall not establish, sustain, support, or staff a DEI office. If they do, they are not eligible to receive Iowa Tuition Grants.

Section by Section Analysis

Section 1. Section 256.183(1)

“Accredited private institution” means an institution of higher learning located in Iowa which is operated privately and not controlled or administered by any state agency or any subdivision of this state except institutions defined in “c” are exempt from the requirements of paragraphs “a” and “b.”

Section 2. Section 256.183(1) New Paragraph

The Dept. of Ed. shall adopt a policy for compliance with the below chapter.

Section 3. Section 256.183(3)

Makes conforming changes.

Section 4. Section 261M.1 Definitions—New Section

“Department” means Dept. of Ed.

“Diversity, equity, and inclusion” includes all of the following:

- Any effort to manipulate or otherwise influence the composition of the faculty or student body with reference to race, sex, color, or ethnicity, apart from ensuring colorblind and sex-neutral admissions and hiring in accordance with state and federal antidiscrimination laws.
- Any effort to promote differential treatment of or provide special benefits to individuals on the basis of race, color, or ethnicity.
- Any effort to promote or promulgate policies and procedures designed or implemented with reference to race, color, or ethnicity.
- Any effort to promote or promulgate trainings, programming, or activities designed or implemented with reference to race, color, ethnicity, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

“Diversity, equity, and inclusion office” means any division, office, center, or other unit of a private institution of higher education that is responsible for creating, developing, designing, implementing, organizing, planning, or

promoting policies, programming, training, practices, activities, or procedures related to DEI. It does not include the following:

- An office ensuring legal compliance
- An academic department within a private institution of higher education that exists primarily for the purpose of offering courses for degree credit and that does not establish a policy or procedures to which other departments of the private institution of higher education are subject.
- An office solely engaged in new student recruitment.
- A registered student organization.

“Private institution of higher education” means accredited private institution as defined in 256.183.

Section 5. Section 261M.2 Diversity, equity, and inclusion office prohibited—New Section

A private institution shall not establish, sustain, support, or staff a DEI office.

It shall not be construed to cover or affect a private colleges funding of any of the following:

- Academic course instruction
- Research or creative works by the private college’s students, faculty, or other research personnel, and the dissemination of such research or creative works.
- Activities of registered student organizations.
- Arrangements for guest speakers and performers with short-term engagements.
- Mental or physical health services by licensed professionals.

This shall not be construed as prohibiting bona fide qualifications based on sex that are reasonably necessary to ht normal operation of private higher education.

Section 6. Section 261M.3 Enforcement—New Section

A person may report a private institution of higher education’s potential violation to the AG. The AG shall provide notice of such report to the Dept. and the private college within 15 days. No later than 30 days after receiving the notice, the institution shall do one of the following:

- Correct the violation and provide documentation of the correction to the AG and the Dept.
- Provide documentation to the AG and the Dept. demonstrating the action upon which the report was based was not a violation.

If, after 30 days, the institution has not complied, the institution shall be ineligible to participate in the tuition grant program as of the next academic year beginning thereafter. If either action is carried out by the institution by October 1 of an academic year, eligibility shall be restored as of the next academic year beginning after such action is carried out. The AG shall notify the college student aid commission.