

As Introduced

135th General Assembly

Regular Session

2023-2024

H. B. No. 394

Representative Holmes

Cosponsors: Representatives Click, Dean, Gross, Hillyer, Lampton, Richardson

A BILL

To enact section 3345.0216 of the Revised Code to
prohibit state institutions of higher education
from requiring individuals to commit to specific
beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or principles.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 3345.0216 of the Revised Code be
enacted to read as follows:

Sec. 3345.0216. (A) Within ninety days after the effective
date of this section, the board of trustees of each state
institution of higher education, as defined in section 3345.011
of the Revised Code, shall adopt a policy that prohibits the
institution from doing any of the following:

(1) Soliciting or requiring an employee or applicant for
employment or academic admission to affirmatively ascribe to, or
opine about, specific beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or
principles related to a political movement or a political
ideology;

(2) Soliciting or requiring a student to affirmatively
ascribe to specific beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or principles

related to a political movement or political ideology; 19

(3) Using statements of commitment to specific beliefs, 20
affiliations, ideals, or principles related to a political 21
movement or political ideology as part of the evaluation 22
criteria for employees or applicants for employment, or 23
employees that are seeking career progression or benefits; 24

(4) Using statements of commitment to specific beliefs, 25
affiliations, ideals, or principles concerning political 26
movements or ideology as part of the academic evaluation of 27
students. 28

(B) Nothing in this section shall be construed to 29
prohibit, limit, or restrict any of the following: 30

(1) A state institution's authority to require a student 31
or employee to comply with federal or state law, including anti- 32
discrimination laws, or to take action against a student or 33
employee for violation of federal or state law; 34

(2) A faculty member's academic freedom; 35

(3) A faculty member's ability to research or write 36
publications about specific beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or 37
principles concerning political movements, ideology, or social 38
action; 39

(4) A state institution's authority to consider an 40
applicant for employment's scholarship, teaching, or subject 41
matter expertise in the applicant's given academic field; 42

(5) A state institution's authority to offer an 43
established character education program; 44

(6) A state institution's authority to establish a mission 45
statement or statement of values. 46

(C) Each state institution shall make publicly available 47
all policies, guidance, and training materials used for 48
students, faculty, and other staff on all matters regarding 49
specific beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or principles concerning 50
political movements or ideology. 51

Nothing in this section shall be construed to require 52
state institutions to make protected legal communications or 53
guidance publicly available. 54