

SB 478 – Revises Duties of Community College Board Members

Community college boards of education are elected governing bodies like local school boards, city councils, county commissions and even the state legislature.

SB 478 would mandate each community college to have a student voting member who was exempt from the same electoral process all other board members, city councilors, county commissioners and legislators must go through.

- Community college boards all receive regular student input through Ex-Officio board positions, student government association reports and other institutionalized forms of direct input.

SB 478 creates a requirement that community college boards vote to approve each statewide or national association the college joins. Community college boards already have the authority to create such a requirement.

- The legislature has no such mandate for any other locally government entity or any of the public higher education boards or commissions.

SB 478 allows colleges to provide reimbursement for board member expenses even though colleges already have this authority.