

HOUSE BILL No. 5619

March 5, 1992, Introduced by Reps. Jaye, Shugars, Dresch, Ostling, Martin, London and Dobronski and referred to the Committee on Colleges and Universities.

A bill to require state institutions of higher education, as a condition of state appropriations, to receive student and alumni approval of certain name or nickname changes; and to provide for forfeiture of state appropriations for a violation.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
2 "college democracy act".

3 Sec. 2. As used in this act:

4 (a) "Alumnus" means an individual who has attended the state
5 institution of higher education.

6 (b) "State institution of higher education" means a state
7 university described in section 4, 5, or 6 of article VIII of the
8 state constitution of 1963 or a community or junior college
9 established under section 7 of article VIII of the state
10 constitution of 1963 or part 25 of the school code of 1976, Act

1 No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1976, being sections 380.1601 to
2 380.1607 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

3 Sec. 3. (1) In order to receive an appropriation from the
4 state, a state institution of higher education shall not change
5 its name, logo, moniker, or official athletic nickname or mascot
6 unless the change is first approved by a majority vote of the
7 institution's students and alumni voting on that question. The
8 election shall be held on Saturday of the institution's homecom-
9 ing weekend. The polls shall be located at several convenient
10 public locations throughout the institution's campus and shall be
11 open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. An individual claiming to be a
12 student or alumnus shall be allowed to vote unless the
13 institution's officials determine from a list of all the
14 institution's students and alumni that the individual is not a
15 student or alumnus.

16 (2) If a state institution of higher education has changed
17 its name, logo, moniker, or official athletic nickname or mascot
18 within the 5 years immediately preceding the effective date of
19 this act, in order to receive an appropriation from the state,
20 the institution shall revert to its former name, logo, moniker,
21 or official athletic nickname or mascot unless the change is
22 ratified by a majority vote of the institution's students and
23 alumni voting on that question. The election shall be held on
24 Saturday of the institution's first homecoming weekend after the
25 effective date of this act. The polls shall be located at sev-
26 eral convenient public locations throughout the institution's
27 campus and shall be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. An

1 individual claiming to be a student or alumnus shall be allowed
2 to vote unless the institution's officials determine from a list
3 of all the institution's students and alumni that the individual
4 is not a student or alumnus.

5 Sec. 4. A state institution of higher education that vio-
6 lates this act shall forfeit any remaining installment payments
7 of its state appropriation for the state fiscal year in which the
8 violation occurs and is ineligible for a state appropriation in
9 any subsequent state fiscal year in which the violation
10 continues.