

HOUSE BILL No. 2234

By Committee on Local Government

2-4

1 AN ACT concerning postsecondary institutions; requiring adoption of
2 policies and plans to prohibit employees from using their official title in
3 certain publications.

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5 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

6 Section 1. (a) As used in this section:

7 (1) "Community college" means any community college established
8 under the laws of this state.

9 (2) "Employee" means any person who is employed by a
10 postsecondary educational institution.

11 (3) "Municipal university" means a municipal university established
12 under the provisions of article 13a of chapter 13 of the Kansas Statutes
13 Annotated, and amendments thereto.

14 (4) "Official title" includes, but is not limited to, an employee's job
15 title, position, institution of employment and job description.

16 (5) "Newspaper opinion column" means any piece typically published
17 by newspapers which expresses the opinions of a named author, including,
18 but not limited to, opinion editorials or letters to the editor.

19 (6) "Postsecondary educational institution" means any state
20 educational institution, municipal university, community college and
21 technical college, and includes any entity resulting from the consolidation
22 or affiliation of any two or more of such postsecondary educational
23 institutions.

24 (7) "State educational institution" means the university of Kansas,
25 Kansas state university of agriculture and applied science, Wichita state
26 university, Emporia state university, Pittsburg state university and Fort
27 Hays state university.

28 (8) "Technical college" means any technical college established under
29 the laws of this state.

30 (b) The state board of regents, the board of trustees of any community
31 college, the board of regents of any municipal university and the
32 governing body of any technical college shall adopt and implement, or
33 require to be implemented, a policy and plan which prohibits an employee
34 from providing or using such employee's official title when authoring or
35 contributing to a newspaper opinion column. Such policy and plan shall
36 prohibit employees from providing or using such employee's official title

1 in a newspaper opinion column only when the opinion of the employee
2 concerns a person who currently holds any elected public office in this
3 state, a person who is a candidate for any elected public office in this state
4 or any matter pending before any legislative or public body in this state.
5 This section shall not prohibit an employee from providing such
6 employee's personal opinion on a person currently holding an elected
7 position, a person who is a candidate for any elected public office or any
8 matter pending before a legislative body as long as such employee does so
9 without providing or using such employee's official title when authoring or
10 contributing to a newspaper opinion column.

11 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
12 publication in the statute book.