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

То	enact section 3345.0216 of the Revised Code to	1
	prohibit state institutions of higher education	2
	from requiring individuals to commit to specific	3
	beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or principles.	4

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

Section 1. That section 3345.0216 of the Revised Code be	5
enacted to read as follows:	6
Sec. 3345.0216. (A) Within ninety days after the effective	7
date of this section, the board of trustees of each state	8
institution of higher education, as defined in section 3345.011	9
of the Revised Code, shall adopt a policy that prohibits the	10
institution from doing any of the following:	11
(1) Soliciting or requiring an employee or applicant for	12
employment or academic admission to affirmatively ascribe to, or	13
opine about, specific beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or	14
principles related to a political movement or a political	15
<pre>ideology;</pre>	16
(2) Soliciting or requiring a student to affirmatively	17
ascribe to specific beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or principles	1.8

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

H. B. No. 394	Page 3
As Introduced	_

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