

**As Introduced**

**135th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2023-2024**

**H. B. No. 394**

**Representative Holmes**

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

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**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