

**Department of Planning and Budget**  
**2026 General Assembly Session**  
**State Fiscal Impact Statement**

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**ORIGINAL**

**Bill Number:** SB494H1

**Patron:** Deeds

**Bill Title:** Gubernatorial appointments; confirmation process; Virginia Commission on Higher Education Board Appointments; membership, duties, and committees of and legal counsel for governing boards of public institutions of higher education.

**Bill Summary:** Amends the membership of the Virginia Commission on Higher Education Board Appointments to allow for the appointment of up to 15 nonlegislative citizen members; currently the Commission consists of six nonlegislative citizen members. The bill clarifies that the rejection of a gubernatorial appointment by the House or Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections or a subcommittee thereof or other standing committee made responsible by the rules of the applicable house for confirming gubernatorial appointments shall be deemed a refusal to confirm by the General Assembly for purposes of the constitutional prohibition on an appointee serving after such refusal. The bill also establishes provisions relating to the appointment, confirmation, and oath of members of governing boards of public institutions of higher education and quorum requirements for and duties of such governing boards. Finally, the bill requires the Office of the Attorney General to examine the feasibility of requiring the governing board of each public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth to be responsible for all decisions relating to the employment of legal counsel for such institution.

**Budget Amendment Necessary:** No

**Items Impacted:** None

**Explanation:** N/A

**Fiscal Summary:** It is anticipated that any fiscal impact can be absorbed with existing resources of the affected entities.

**Other:** This bill is similar to HB1385.