

# Legislative Analysis

---



## UNIVERSITY GOVERNING BOARDS: MEETINGS OPEN TO PUBLIC

Phone: (517) 373-8080  
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

### House Joint Resolution O (Proposed H-2 substitute)

**Sponsor: Rep. Martin Howrylak**  
**Committee: Oversight and Ethics**  
**Complete to 6-17-15**

Analysis available at  
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

## REVISED SUMMARY:

House Joint Resolution "O" seeks to amend Section 4 of Article VIII of the State Constitution of 1963 by adding language specifying that "meetings" (not just "formal sessions") of the governing boards of Michigan's institutions of higher education are open to the public.

Currently, Section 4 reads, in part, "...Formal sessions of governing boards of such [higher education] institutions shall be open to the public." HJR O would amend this to read, "Meetings of governing boards of these educational institutions shall be open to the public, as provided by law." [Underlined portions indicate proposed new language.]

The joint resolution also would update the formal names of institutions of higher education, which have changed since the constitution of 1963 was drafted, amending the names of such institutions as the Michigan College of Science and Technology, now known as Michigan Technological University, and Ferris Institute, now known as Ferris State University. The bill also would add the names of institutions not chartered at the time of drafting of the constitution, such as Saginaw Valley State University, Lake Superior State University, and Oakland University.

If both the House and Senate approve the resolution by at least a two-thirds vote at least 60 days before the date of a general election, it would then be placed on the ballot at that general election for voter approval or rejection. Otherwise, it would be placed on the ballot at the next general election. A general election is defined in Michigan Election Law [MCL 168.2(h)] as the November election that takes place in an even-numbered year.

If approved by a majority of those voting, it would become part of the constitution at the end of 45 days after the date of the election at which it was approved.

## FISCAL IMPACT:

The joint resolution apparently would have no significant fiscal impact on public universities.

Legislative Analyst: Josh Roesner  
Fiscal Analyst: Marilyn Peterson

---

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.