



## **Student Government Association**

Ramapo College of New Jersey  
*Persistent Voice of the Student Body*

### **Senate Bill**

**Act Number: 2022-03**

**24 October 2022**

**Introduced by: Senate Vice President Aime Lara**

**Proposed by: Secretary of Governmental Affairs James Pascal**

**Whereas:** The Student Government Association (SGA) of Ramapo College of New Jersey is the liaison body to the Faculty, Staff, Administration, the Board of Trustees, and the Board of Governors of Ramapo College of New Jersey;

**Whereas:** The Ramapo College of New Jersey mission statement highlights “diversity, inclusiveness, sustainability, student engagement, and community involvement”;

**Whereas:** The Student Government Association is committed to advocating for a diverse campus and making Ramapo’s campus a home for all students;

**Whereas:** Section 1 of P.L.1986, c. 139 (C. 18A:64-3.1): The Board of Trustees of any state college established pursuant to chapter 64 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes shall provide for the election of two student representatives as provided herein, who shall be full-time, regularly matriculated students in good academic standing, and who shall be 18 years of age or older [and citizens of the United States], to be elected by the students in the manner provided herein to serve on the Board of Trustees of that college for terms of two years commencing at the next organization of the board.

**Whereas:** The current law prohibits students who are non-US citizens from serving as a student trustee;

**Whereas:** Preventing non-US citizens from serving on the Board of Trustees is contradictory to the Ramapo College of New Jersey mission statement of promoting diversity and inclusiveness, as the current practice limits perspective on the Board of Trustees.

### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

The SGA will voice support for the specific provision of the New Jersey Bill S538, that “Eliminates US citizenship requirement for student representatives on boards of trustees of certain public institutions of higher education” Introduced by Senator M. Teresa Ruiz.



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**Proposal:** The SGA Secretary for Government Affairs will address letters in support of Bill S538 to the sponsor, Senator M. Teresa Ruiz, and the sponsors of Bill A4126, Assemblywomen Shama Haider and Assemblywomen Sadaf Jaffer. This letter will advocate the elimination of the US citizenship requirement for student representatives on boards of trustees of certain public institutions of higher education. The signatures on these letters will include that of the Ramapo SGA President alongside the SGA Secretary of Governmental Affairs.

*Paolo Miyashiro Bedoya*

**Paolo Miyashiro Bedoya**  
**President '22 - '23**

*Ashley Gomez*

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**Senate President '22 - '23**