

ASSEMBLY, No. 2803

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 24, 2014

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JOSEPH CRYAN

District 20 (Union)

Assemblywoman CELESTE M. RILEY

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblyman CARMELO G. GARCIA

District 33 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Requires independent colleges report certain consumer information on their websites; requires information on remedial instruction to be provided by public and independent colleges; directs how remedial education is delivered at public and certain independent colleges.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/17/2014)

1 AN ACT concerning higher education, amending P.L.2009, c.197,
2 and supplementing chapter 3B of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7
8 1. Section 2 of P.L.2009, c.197 (C.18A:3B-44) is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 2. a. A four-year public or independent institution of higher
11 education shall provide for public inspection on its website
12 comprehensive information on the cost of attendance, the
13 graduation rates of admitted students, **[and]** the faculty of the
14 institution, and the remedial instruction provided by the institution
15 to students. The purpose of the information shall be to maximize
16 the awareness of students and their families of the costs associated
17 with enrollment in the institution, the institution's success in
18 ensuring the graduation of its students, including students who
19 require remedial instruction, and the composition of the teaching
20 faculty that a student will encounter in his coursework. The
21 institution shall post, and annually update, a student consumer
22 information report on its website that includes:

- 23 (1) overall four-year and six-year graduation rates;
24 (2) four-year and six-year graduation rates by demographic
25 group;
26 (3) four-year and six-year graduation rates by major;
27 (4) four-year and six-year graduation rates for student-athletes;
28 (5) the student transfer rate;
29 (6) an overview of the institutions to which former students of
30 that college or university have transferred prior to the completion of
31 a degree;
32 (7) the cost for the current academic year of attending the
33 institution including tuition, student fees, room and board, and
34 books and materials;
35 (8) a description of the types of financial assistance offered
36 directly by the institution to both student-athletes and to students
37 who do not participate in athletic programs at the institution;
38 (9) the percent of student-athletes who receive financial
39 assistance directly from the institution and the average value of the
40 assistance and the percent of students who do not participate in
41 athletic programs at the institution who receive financial assistance
42 directly from the institution and the average value of the assistance;
43 (10) the total projected cost for an incoming freshman to live on
44 campus and complete a degree in four years and the total projected

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 cost for an incoming freshman to commute to school and complete a
2 degree in four years;

3 (11) the total projected cost for an incoming freshman to live on
4 campus and complete a degree in six years and the total projected
5 cost for an incoming freshman to commute to school and complete a
6 degree in six years;

7 (12) average student loan indebtedness of four-year graduates for
8 both students who live on campus and students who commute;

9 (13) average student loan indebtedness of six-year graduates for
10 both students who live on campus and students who commute;

11 (14) average student loan indebtedness of a student who
12 withdraws from the institution prior to the completion of a degree
13 program for both students who live on campus and students who
14 commute;

15 (15) an overview of the institution's faculty, including the
16 percentage of faculty employed as a tenured professor, the
17 percentage of faculty employed as a full-time non-tenured
18 professor, and the percentage of faculty employed as an adjunct or
19 visiting professor;

20 (16) the percentage of courses taught by each of the different
21 categories of faculty; **and**

22 (17) an indicator of each academic department's capacity to serve
23 the students majoring within that department's programs, as
24 determined by the **Commission on** Secretary of Higher
25 Education; and

26 (18) remedial instruction information which shall include, but
27 need not be limited to: the overall number and percentage of
28 students who are required to enroll in remedial instruction; the
29 number of remedial instruction courses taken by each student who
30 is required to enroll in remedial instruction and the number of
31 remedial instruction courses completed by each student who is
32 required to enroll in remedial instruction; the number of students
33 who enroll in credit-bearing courses after being required to enroll in
34 remedial instruction courses; a list of the remedial instruction
35 courses made available; and the overall four-year and six-year
36 graduation rates for students required to enroll in remedial
37 instruction.

38 The institution shall provide with all paper applications for
39 admission to the institution a hard copy of the information prepared
40 pursuant to this section.

41 b. A four-year public or independent institution of higher
42 education shall conform to the guidelines, criteria, and format
43 prescribed by the **Commission on** Secretary of Higher Education
44 in reporting the information required pursuant to this section.

45 c. A four-year public or independent institution of higher
46 education shall submit its student consumer information report to
47 the **Commission on** Secretary of Higher Education for inclusion
48 in a comparative profile of the student consumer information

1 reports of all four-year public and independent institutions of higher
2 education.

3 d. A four-year public or independent institution of higher
4 education shall ensure that the page of its Internet site which
5 includes its student consumer information report contains a link to
6 the page of the **【Commission on】 Secretary of Higher Education's**
7 Internet site that includes the comparative profile required pursuant
8 to subsection b. of section 3 of this act.

9 e. A four-year public or independent institution of higher
10 education shall ensure that the Internet site for submitting an online
11 application to the institution contains a link to the institution's
12 student consumer information report.

13 f. A four-year public or independent institution of higher
14 education shall require the parent or guardian of a student applying
15 for admission into the institution, or the student if he is an
16 independent adult, to sign and submit a statement acknowledging
17 that he has reviewed the institution's student consumer information
18 report.

19 (cf: P.L.2009, c.197, s.2)

20

21 2. Section 3 of P.L.2009, c.197 (C.18A:3B-45) is amended to
22 read as follows:

23 3. a. The **【Commission on】 Secretary of Higher Education** shall
24 issue guidelines and criteria for collecting and calculating the
25 information required pursuant to section 2 of this act and shall
26 prescribe a uniform reporting method for posting the information.

27 b. The **【Commission on】 Secretary of Higher Education** shall
28 annually compile the student consumer information reports
29 submitted pursuant to subsection c. of section 2 of this act into a
30 comparative profile of all four-year public and independent
31 institutions of higher education. The **【commission】 secretary** shall
32 present the information on its website in a manner that allows
33 college students and their families to easily compare student
34 consumer information across institutions.

35 (cf: P.L.2009, c.197, s.3)

36

37 3. (New section) a. No later than the fall semester of the 2015-
38 2016 academic year and for each semester thereafter, if a public or
39 independent institution of higher education determines by use of
40 multiple commonly accepted measures of skill level that a student is
41 likely to succeed in college-level work with supplemental support,
42 the institution shall offer the student remedial support that is
43 embedded with the corresponding entry level course in a college-
44 level program. The embedded remedial support shall be offered
45 during the same semester as, and in conjunction with, the entry
46 level course for purposes of providing the student with
47 supplemental support in the entry level course.

1 b. No later than the fall semester of the 2015-2016 academic
2 year and for each semester thereafter, if a public or independent
3 institution of higher education determines by use of multiple
4 commonly accepted measures of skill level that a student is below
5 the skill level required for success in college-level work, the
6 institution shall offer the student the opportunity to participate in an
7 intensive college readiness program before the start of the following
8 semester. The student shall complete the intensive college
9 readiness program prior to receiving embedded remedial support as
10 provided in subsection a. of this section.

11 The Secretary of Higher Education, in consultation with the
12 public and independent institutions of higher education, shall
13 develop options for an intensive college readiness program.

14 c. (1) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (2) of this
15 subsection, no later than the fall semester of the 2015-2016
16 academic year and for each semester thereafter, a public or
17 independent institution of higher education shall not offer any
18 remedial support, including remedial courses, that is not embedded
19 with the corresponding entry level course as provided pursuant to
20 subsection a. of this section, or offered as part of an intensive
21 college readiness program as provided pursuant to subsection b. of
22 this section.

23 (2) A public or independent institution of higher education may
24 offer a student a maximum of one semester of remedial support that
25 is not embedded, provided that the support is intended to advance
26 the student toward earning a degree, and the program of remedial
27 support is approved by the Secretary of Higher Education.

28 d. The provisions of this section shall not be applicable to an
29 independent institution of higher education having a total
30 endowment of more than \$1,000,000,000.

31
32 4. (New section) No later than July 1, 2015, and each year
33 thereafter, the Secretary of Higher Education shall ensure that
34 public and independent institutions of higher education work with
35 the Commissioner of Education and local school districts to:

36 a. use available evaluation methods for early assessment of the
37 potential for college readiness of each student enrolled in the eighth
38 and tenth grades in a public school; and

39 b. share the results of the assessment with the student, the
40 student's parents or legal guardian, and the public school in which
41 the student is enrolled.

42 The provisions of this section shall not be applicable to an
43 independent institution of higher education having a total
44 endowment of more than \$1,000,000,000.

45
46 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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3 Under the “New Jersey College Student and Parent Consumer
4 Information Act,” P.L.2009, c.197, a four-year public institution of
5 higher education is required to provide for public inspection on its
6 website comprehensive information on the institution including
7 information on the cost of attendance, the graduation rates of
8 admitted students, and the faculty of the institution. This bill
9 amends that law to provide that independent institutions of higher
10 education will also be subject to the provisions of the “New Jersey
11 College Student and Parent Consumer Information Act.”

12 This bill also requires a four-year public or independent
13 institution of higher education to report and post on its website as
14 part of the institution’s student consumer information report
15 information on remedial instruction provided by the institution.
16 Under the bill, the remedial instruction information will include: the
17 overall number and percentage of students who are required to
18 enroll in remedial instruction; the number of remedial instruction
19 courses taken by each student who is required to enroll in remedial
20 instruction and the number of those courses completed by the
21 student; the number of students who enroll in credit-bearing courses
22 after being required to enroll in remedial instruction courses; a list
23 of remedial instruction courses made available; and the overall
24 four-year and six-year graduation rates for students required to
25 enroll in remedial instruction.

26 This bill provides that beginning in the fall semester of the 2015-
27 2016 academic year and in each semester thereafter, if a public or
28 independent institution of higher education determines that a
29 student is likely to succeed in college-level work with supplemental
30 support, the institution must offer that student remedial support that
31 is embedded with the corresponding entry level course in a college-
32 level program. If the institution determines that a student is below
33 the skill level required for success in college-level work, the
34 institution must offer the student the opportunity to participate in an
35 intensive college readiness program before the start of the following
36 semester. After the fall semester of the 2015-2016 academic year,
37 an institution will not be permitted to offer any remedial support to
38 a student other than support that is embedded with the
39 corresponding entry level course or offered as part of an intensive
40 college readiness program, except the institution may offer a
41 student a maximum of one semester of remedial support that is not
42 embedded, provided that certain conditions are met. This provision
43 will not be applicable to an independent institution of higher
44 education having a total endowment of more than \$1,000,000,000.

45 The bill also provides that no later than July 1, 2015, and
46 annually thereafter, the Secretary of Higher Education will ensure
47 that public and independent institutions of higher education work
48 with the Commissioner of Education and local school districts to

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1 use available evaluation methods to assess the potential for college
2 readiness of each student enrolled in the eighth and tenth grades in a
3 public school. This provision will not be applicable to an
4 independent institution of higher education having a total
5 endowment of more than \$1,000,000,000.