



NEW JERSEY

Association of State Colleges and Universities

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Assembly Bill No. 4691
Assembly Higher Education Committee
June 12, 2017

The state colleges and universities support the intent of this legislation to help students attain a postsecondary credential. We oppose this specific proposal, however, because it interferes with our boards of trustees' authority over academic programming, a bedrock principle of institutional governance.

The legislature granted our boards of trustees with the power and duty "to establish admission standards and requirements and standards for granting diplomas, certificates and degrees" (C. 18A:3B-6.d), and "to determine the educational curriculum and program of the college consistent with the programmatic mission of the institution" (C. 18A:64-6b). These provisions have been in place for decades, and have allowed our institutions to flourish.

With regard to reverse-transfer agreements, according to the Education Commission of the States, only nine states have legislation creating reverse transfer. Many other states have reverse transfer policies set in board policy or through institutional agreements.

As the data from ECS indicate, legislation on this complex academic issue is unnecessary. We would prefer to explore the merits of reverse-transfer agreements under the authority granted to our boards of trustees over academic programming.

Allowing each institution to decide to enter reverse-transfer agreements is already succeeding. There are 11 agreements between seven of the county colleges and four of our member institutions.

NJ Transfer is an office that facilitates the ability of students to transfer and for institutions to create reverse-transfer agreements. The office is funded by the members of the New Jersey Presidents' Council, representing the vast majority of the colleges and universities in this state, and employs two full-time staff members. It is considered a model of improving the ease of transfer, further obviating the need for this legislation.

www.njascu.org

The College of New Jersey
Kean University
Montclair State University

New Jersey City University
Ramapo College of New Jersey
Rowan University

Stockton University
Thomas Edison State University
William Paterson University