

ASSEMBLY, No. 1557

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 214th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2010 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT

District 6 (Camden)

Assemblyman PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

District 15 (Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

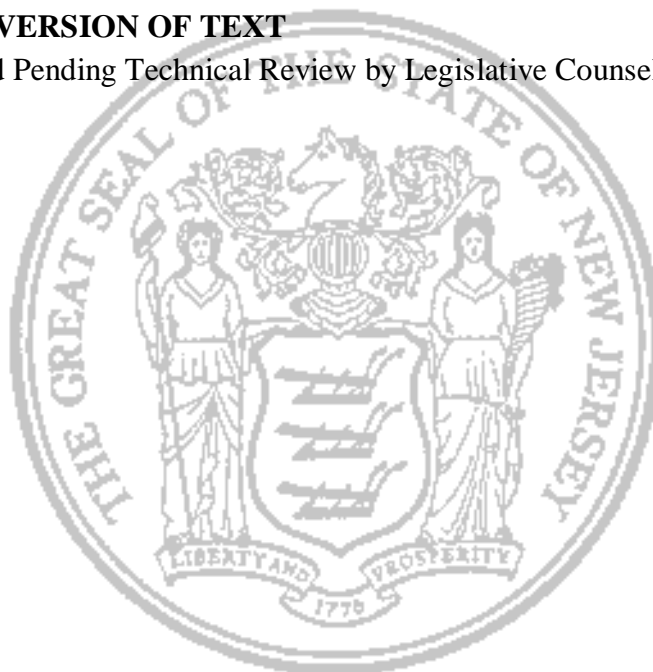
Assemblymen Green, Schaer and Fuentes

SYNOPSIS

Requires members of governing boards of public institutions of higher education to complete a training program developed by the Commission on Higher Education.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/9/2010)

1 AN ACT concerning the members of governing boards of public
2 institutions of higher education and supplementing chapter 3B of
3 Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

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8 1. a. As a condition of serving as a member of the governing
9 board of a public institution of higher education, a person shall be
10 required to complete a training program developed by the
11 Commission on Higher Education that is designed to clarify the
12 roles and duties of a governing board member and is at least one
13 day in length.

14 b. The training shall be completed no later than six months
15 after the date that the person is appointed as a member of the
16 governing board of a public institution of higher education; except
17 that a person who serves as a member of a governing board prior to
18 the effective date of this act shall complete the training no later than
19 six months after the effective date.

20 c. The commission shall:

21 (1) prescribe the subject matter of the training which shall
22 include, but need not be limited to, governance responsibilities,
23 ethical standards, due diligence, the requirements of the "Senator
24 Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act," P.L.1975, c.231
25 (C.10:4-6 et seq.), and P.L.1963, c.73 (C.47:1A-1 et seq.), issues
26 associated with laws on privacy, board member fiduciary
27 responsibilities, and a review of the types of financial,
28 organizational, legal, and regulatory issues that a member of a
29 governing board may be required to consider in the course of
30 discharging the member's governance responsibilities;

31 (2) provide the training directly or arrange for, or specify, the
32 entity or entities to provide the training;

33 (3) conduct a periodic review of the prescribed subject matter of
34 the training to insure that the training includes information on
35 relevant changes to State or federal law and other information
36 deemed necessary to enable governing board members to serve
37 effectively;

38 (4) certify completion of the training for each governing board
39 member upon receipt of documentation thereof, as provided on a
40 form and in a manner prescribed by the commission, or otherwise
41 arrange for certification by the training entity; and

42 (5) take other such actions as the commission determines
43 appropriate to effectuate the purposes of this act.

44
45 2. The Commission on Higher Education shall adopt rules and
46 regulations pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"

1 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate the purposes of
2 this act.

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4 3. This act shall take effect on the 180th day after the date of
5 enactment, but the Commission on Higher Education may take such
6 anticipatory administrative action in advance thereof as shall be
7 necessary for the implementation of this act.

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STATEMENT

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12 This bill requires a member of a governing board of a public
13 institution of higher education to complete a training program
14 developed by the Commission on Higher Education. Under the bill,
15 the commission would prescribe the subject matter of the training,
16 which will include, but need not be limited to, information
17 concerning governance responsibilities, ethical standards, due
18 diligence, the requirements of the "Senator Byron M. Baer Open
19 Public Meetings Act," and the open public records law, issues
20 associated with laws on privacy, board member fiduciary
21 responsibilities, and the types of financial, organizational, legal, and
22 regulatory issues associated with discharging the duties of a
23 governing board member.

24 Under the bill, the commission could provide the training
25 directly or arrange for, or specify, the entity or entities to provide
26 the training, and certify completion of the training for each
27 governing board member.

28 The bill provides that the training must be completed no later
29 than six months after the date that the person is appointed as a
30 member of the governing board. A person who is serving as a
31 member of a governing board prior to the bill's effective date must
32 complete the training no later than six months after the effective
33 date.