

[Second Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 1668**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**217th LEGISLATURE**

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2016 SESSION

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**Assemblyman Holley, Assemblywoman Lampitt, Senators Bateman and Ruiz**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes New Jersey Commission on Higher Education and Business Partnerships.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As amended by the General Assembly on May 26, 2016.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/20/2016)

1 AN ACT establishing the New Jersey Commission on Higher  
 2 Education and Business Partnerships and supplementing Title 52  
 3 of the Revised Statutes.

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

7  
 8 1. The New Jersey Commission on Higher Education and  
 9 Business Partnerships is created and established in the Executive  
 10 Branch of the State Government. For the purposes of complying  
 11 with the provisions of Article V, Section IV, paragraph 1 of the  
 12 New Jersey Constitution, the commission is allocated within the  
 13 Department of State, but notwithstanding this allocation, the  
 14 commission shall be independent of any supervision or control by  
 15 the department or by any board or officer thereof.

16  
 17 2. The commission shall consist of <sup>1</sup>~~17~~ <sup>2</sup>~~18~~ <sup>1</sup>19<sup>2</sup> members as  
 18 follows:

19 a. the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce  
 20 Development, or a designee, who shall serve ex officio;

21 b. the Secretary of Higher Education, or a designee, who shall  
 22 serve ex officio;

23 c. the Chief Executive Officer of the New Jersey Economic  
 24 Development Authority, or a designee, who shall serve ex officio;

25 d. <sup>1</sup>~~ten~~ <sup>2</sup>~~eleven~~ <sup>1</sup>twelve<sup>2</sup> members appointed by the  
 26 Governor who shall include: the president of a public research  
 27 university, a representative of a public <sup>1</sup>~~or~~ college or university  
 28 located in the State and a representative of an<sup>1</sup> independent college or  
 29 university located in the State that <sup>1</sup>~~is~~ are<sup>1</sup> actively engaged in  
 30 business partnerships, a representative of the New Jersey Chamber of  
 31 Commerce, a representative of the New Jersey Business and Industry  
 32 Association, <sup>2</sup>a representative of the Commerce and Industry  
 33 Association of New Jersey,<sup>2</sup> a representative of the New Jersey  
 34 <sup>1</sup>~~Technical~~ Technology<sup>1</sup> Council, a representative of BioNJ, a  
 35 representative of the HealthCare Institute of New Jersey, a  
 36 representative of the New Jersey Association of State Colleges and  
 37 Universities, a representative of the New Jersey Council of County  
 38 Colleges, and a representative of the New Jersey Association of  
 39 Independent Colleges and Universities;

40 e. four members of the public with backgrounds in higher  
 41 education, public-private partnerships, private sector innovation, or a  
 42 combination of those experiences. The President of the Senate,  
 43 Speaker of the General Assembly, Minority Leader of the Senate, and

**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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly AHI committee amendments adopted May 12, 2016.

<sup>2</sup>Assembly floor amendments adopted May 26, 2016.

1 the Minority Leader of the General Assembly shall each appoint one  
2 of these members.

3

4 3. a. The terms of the appointed members of the commission  
5 shall be for five years, except that of the appointments first made to the  
6 commission, <sup>1</sup>~~four~~ <sup>2</sup>~~five~~ <sup>1</sup>six <sup>2</sup> shall serve for terms of three years,  
7 five shall serve for terms of four years, and five shall serve for terms  
8 of five years. Each appointed member shall serve for the term of the  
9 appointment and until his successor is appointed. A member  
10 appointed to fill a vacancy occurring in the membership of the  
11 commission for any reason other than the expiration of the term shall  
12 have a term of appointment for the unexpired term only. Any vacancy  
13 shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. The  
14 commission members shall serve without compensation but shall be  
15 reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their  
16 duties.

17 b. The Governor shall designate the chairperson of the  
18 commission from among his appointed members.

19

20 4. The commission shall:

21 a. Explore how to best foster innovation in the State through  
22 public-private partnerships in higher education;

23 b. Stimulate academic-industrial collaboration through such  
24 mechanisms as business incubation facilities and clinical research and  
25 clinical trials;

26 c. Identify and support research opportunities at New Jersey  
27 academic institutions and other institutions that can advance economic  
28 development and employment;

29 d. Facilitate collaborations between businesses and institutions of  
30 higher education, with a greater emphasis on research and  
31 development in the pharmaceutical, biosciences, biotechnology,  
32 <sup>1</sup>medical technology,<sup>1</sup> information technology, and  
33 telecommunications industries;

34 e. Identify and support opportunities for partnerships between  
35 institutions of higher education and pharmaceutical, biosciences, and  
36 biotechnology companies that can accelerate the commercialization of  
37 new therapies, drugs, and technologies;

38 f. Identify strategies to significantly increase the number of  
39 clinical trials conducted by public and independent institutions of  
40 higher education in the State;

41 g. Identify the workforce and economic development needs of the  
42 State and strategies for meeting those needs;

43 h. Study the current roles of the four-year public and independent  
44 institutions of higher education, the county colleges, and the county  
45 vocational school districts in meeting and advancing the workforce  
46 and economic development needs of the State, and make  
47 recommendations on improving the role of each of these sectors in  
48 advancing these needs; and

1 i. Provide the Governor, and the Legislature pursuant to section 2  
2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), with a report by January 30 of each  
3 year describing the status of the commission's activities and the efforts  
4 of the ombudsman pursuant to section 6 of this act.

5  
6 5. The commission is authorized to:

7 a. Adopt rules and regulations pursuant to the "Administrative  
8 Procedures Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), concerning  
9 the operation of the commission, the functions and responsibilities  
10 of its officers and employees, and other matters as may be  
11 necessary to carry out the purposes of this act;

12 b. Maintain offices at such places within the State as it may  
13 designate;

14 c. Employ, subject to the availability of funds, an executive  
15 director and other personnel as may be necessary, whose  
16 employment shall be in the unclassified service of the Civil Service,  
17 except that employees performing stenographic or clerical duties  
18 shall be in the career service and appointed pursuant to Title 11A of  
19 the New Jersey Statutes;

20 d. Conduct meetings and public hearings in connection with the  
21 purposes of this act;

22 e. Enter into contracts with individuals, organizations, and  
23 institutions necessary or incidental to the performance of its duties  
24 and the execution of its powers under this act; and

25 f. Take any and all necessary or convenient actions to carry out  
26 its purposes and exercise the powers granted in this act.

27  
28 6. In addition to any other duties and responsibilities that the  
29 commission may assign to the executive director, the executive  
30 director shall serve as the Higher Education-Business Partnership  
31 Ombudsman. A business that seeks to form a partnership with an  
32 institution of higher education may collaborate and work with the  
33 ombudsman in the establishment of that partnership. The  
34 ombudsman shall:

35 a. Assist business and industry in making the appropriate  
36 contacts at the institutions of higher education that may be  
37 necessary to foster a partnership;

38 b. Make available to business and industry information on  
39 research efforts, either planned or in progress, at institutions of  
40 higher education that may be applicable to the work of that business  
41 or industry and may foster its interest in establishing a collaboration  
42 or partnership with the institution;

43 c. Collaborate with institutions of higher education in the  
44 establishment of strategies that an institution might implement to  
45 inform business and industry of the expertise and achievements of  
46 the institution's faculty and research staff applicable to the business  
47 or industry's area of interest;

- 1       d. Conduct annual outreach efforts to pharmaceutical
- 2 companies to assess the interest of those companies in establishing
- 3 clinical trials at institutions of higher education in the State;
- 4       e. Determine the specific reasons for any lack of interest in
- 5 conducting clinical trials at institutions of higher education and then
- 6 work with the institutions to implement actions that address the
- 7 concerns and issues raised; and
- 8       f. Annually assess the success of institutions of higher
- 9 education in meeting the research and development needs of
- 10 business and industry.
- 11
- 12       7. This act shall take effect immediately.