

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 114**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
217th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED JANUARY 27, 2016

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman TROY SINGLETON

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblyman JAMEL C. HOLLEY

District 20 (Union)

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

Assemblywoman GABRIELA M. MOSQUERA

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by:

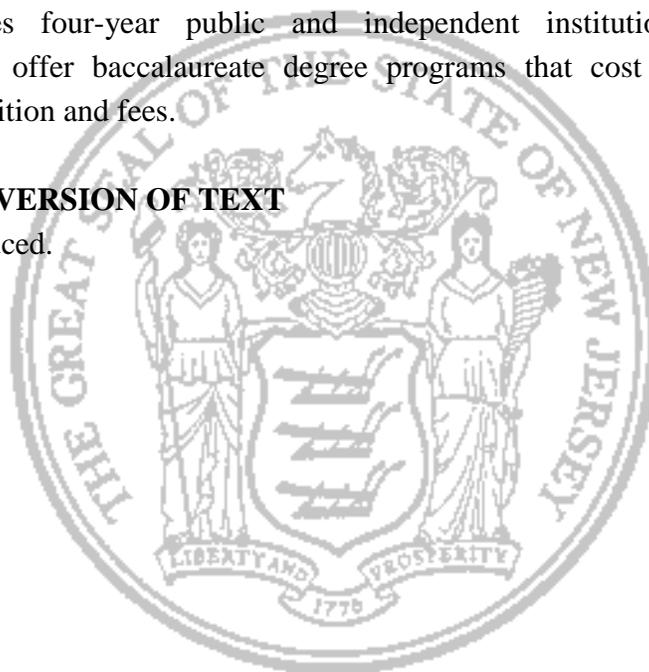
Assemblywoman McKnight

SYNOPSIS

Encourages four-year public and independent institutions of higher education to offer baccalaureate degree programs that cost no more than \$10,000 in tuition and fees.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 4/5/2016)

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- 1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** encouraging four-year institutions of
2 higher education to offer baccalaureate degree programs that cost
3 no more than \$10,000 in tuition and fees.
4
- 5 **WHEREAS**, The cost of attending an institution of higher education
6 continues to increase, and many New Jersey students and their
7 families find it difficult to afford the tuition and fees required for
8 enrollment; and
- 9 **WHEREAS**, College tuition has increased at a rate faster than inflation
10 for approximately 30 years, which has resulted in record-high
11 student loan debt. At approximately \$1.2 trillion, total student loan
12 debt has exceeded the total national credit card debt; and
- 13 **WHEREAS**, In its ninth annual report on student loan debt issued in
14 November of 2014, the Institute for College Access and Success
15 found that nearly seven in 10 college seniors who graduated in 2013
16 left school with an average of \$28,400 in student loan debt, an
17 increase of two percent over 2012; and
- 18 **WHEREAS**, According to the Office of the Secretary of Higher
19 Education, for the 2014-2015 academic year, the average annual
20 cost of tuition and fees for a full-time, in-State, undergraduate
21 student enrolled in a four-year public institution of higher education
22 is \$12,894, and the average annual cost of tuition and fees for a full-
23 time undergraduate student enrolled in an independent institution of
24 higher education in New Jersey is \$35,084; and
- 25 **WHEREAS**, A person's level of education continues to be one of the
26 most significant factors in determining his economic well-being.
27 According to a 2011 United States Census Bureau report, a person
28 who graduates from college with a baccalaureate degree will earn,
29 over the course of a lifetime, \$2.4 million, which, on average, is \$1
30 million more than a person with only a high school diploma; and
- 31 **WHEREAS**, Some states have taken measures to make college more
32 affordable. In 2011, then-Texas Governor Rick Perry challenged
33 public colleges to design four-year baccalaureate degree programs
34 costing no more than \$10,000 in tuition, fees, and books, and to
35 achieve the necessary cost reductions by teaching students on-line
36 and awarding degrees based on competency; and
- 37 **WHEREAS**, Texas A&M-San Antonio became the first institution of
38 higher education in Texas to answer the Governor's challenge by
39 offering a baccalaureate degree in information technology that cost
40 students under \$10,000. To date, 11 other Texas colleges have
41 \$10,000 degree initiatives; and
- 42 **WHEREAS**, Texas is not alone in this endeavor. In Florida, 12 colleges
43 have either developed proposals to offer \$10,000 baccalaureate
44 degree programs or are in the process of doing so, and Oklahoma
45 and Oregon are considering similar \$10,000 degree proposals; and
- 46 **WHEREAS**, With many highly-skilled workers competing for a limited
47 number of job openings, it is imperative that high school graduates
48 be able to afford to attend college and attain the skills necessary to

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1 compete in the 21st century workplace. Offering baccalaureate
2 degree programs that cost no more than \$10,000 in tuition and fees
3 will greatly increase the ability of New Jersey students to attend an
4 institution of higher education, acquire the training needed to secure
5 good, high-paying jobs, minimize student loan debt, and become
6 productive members of their communities; now, therefore,
7

8 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
9 *Jersey (the Senate concurring):*
10

11 1. The Legislature encourages four-year public and
12 independent institutions of higher education to offer baccalaureate
13 degree programs that cost no more than \$10,000 in tuition and fees.
14 The availability of these degree programs will greatly increase the
15 ability of New Jersey students to attend an institution of higher
16 education and acquire the training needed to secure high-paying
17 jobs, and will significantly reduce the amount of burdensome
18 student loan debt.
19

20 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
21 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the
22 Secretary of the Senate to the Secretary of Higher Education and to
23 the president and the members of the governing board of each four-
24 year public and independent institution of higher education in the
25 State.
26

27
28 STATEMENT
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30 This concurrent resolution encourages four-year public and
31 independent institutions of higher education to offer baccalaureate
32 degree programs that cost no more than \$10,000 in tuition and fees.
33 The cost of attending an institution of higher education continues to
34 increase, and many New Jersey students and their families find it
35 difficult to afford the tuition and fees required for enrollment.

36 A person's level of education continues to be one of the most
37 significant factors in determining his economic well-being.
38 According to a 2011 United States Census Bureau report, a person
39 who graduates from college with a baccalaureate degree will earn,
40 over the course of a lifetime, \$2.4 million, which, on average, is \$1
41 million more than a person with only a high school diploma. With
42 many highly-skilled workers competing for a limited number of job
43 openings, it is imperative that high school graduates be able to
44 afford to attend college and attain the skills necessary to compete in
45 the 21st century workplace. Offering baccalaureate degree
46 programs that cost no more than \$10,000 in tuition and fees will
47 greatly increase the ability of New Jersey students to attend an
48 institution of higher education and acquire the training needed to

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1 secure high-paying jobs, and will significantly reduce their student
2 loan debt.

3 A number of institutions of higher education in other states,
4 including Texas and Florida, have already taken measures to make
5 attending college more affordable by developing \$10,000
6 baccalaureate degree programs.