

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 40**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
214th LEGISLATURE**

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2010 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator JAMES BEACH

District 6 (Camden)

Senator JOHN A. GIRGENTI

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Ruiz

SYNOPSIS

Requests and encourages institutions of higher education to become members of the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges Consortium.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



SCR40 BEACH, GIRGENTI

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1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** requesting and encouraging
2 institutions of higher education to become members of the
3 Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges Consortium.
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5 **WHEREAS**, In order to enhance their military effectiveness and to
6 achieve their educational, vocational, and career goals,
7 servicemembers should share in the same postsecondary
8 educational opportunities that are available to other citizens; and
9 **WHEREAS**, To enhance access to undergraduate educational
10 opportunities for servicemembers, institutions should maintain a
11 necessary flexibility of programs and procedures, particularly in
12 admissions, credit transfer, and recognition of other applicable
13 learning, including that gained in the military; in scheduling and
14 format of courses; and in academic residency requirements to
15 offset servicemembers' mobility, isolation from campuses, and
16 part-time student status; and
17 **WHEREAS**, The Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC)
18 Consortium, which was created in 1972 to provide educational
19 opportunities to servicemembers who had trouble completing
20 college degrees because of their frequent relocations, today includes
21 more than 1,800 colleges and universities among its members; and
22 **WHEREAS**, The SOC Consortium is a vehicle to help coordinate
23 voluntary postsecondary educational opportunities for
24 servicemembers by: advocating for the flexibility needed to
25 improve access to and availability of educational programs for
26 servicemembers; helping the military and higher education
27 communities understand and respond to each other's resources,
28 limits, and requirements for meeting the education and training
29 needs of servicemembers; and strengthening the working
30 relationships among military and higher education
31 representatives; and
32 **WHEREAS**, Each year, hundreds of thousands of servicemembers and
33 their family members enroll in associate, bachelor, and graduate-
34 level degree programs offered by SOC Consortium members on
35 school campuses, military installations, and armories within the
36 United States and overseas; and
37 **WHEREAS**, SOC Consortium member institutions, including 27
38 institutions of higher education in New Jersey, provide flexibility to
39 servicemembers, their families, and veterans seeking college
40 degrees and, in turn, these institutions benefit from the enrollment
41 of mature, highly-motivated adult students who are making use of
42 tuition assistance or Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits to pay their
43 education costs; and
44 **WHEREAS**, In gratitude and respect for their service to their country,
45 all institutions of higher education in the State should strive to
46 provide our servicemembers with the tools and opportunities they

SCR40 BEACH, GIRGENTI

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1 need to achieve their educational, vocational, and career goals;
2 now, therefore,

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4 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the*
5 *General Assembly concurring):*

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7 1. This House respectfully requests and encourages each
8 institution of higher education in the State to seek membership in
9 the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) Consortium.

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11 2. Duly authenticated copies of this concurrent resolution,
12 signed by the President of the Senate and attested by the Secretary
13 of the Senate and signed by the Speaker of the General Assembly
14 and attested by the Clerk of the General Assembly, shall be
15 transmitted to the governing board of each institution of higher
16 education in the State.

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STATEMENT

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21 This concurrent resolution requests and encourages each
22 institution of higher education in the State to seek membership in
23 the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) Consortium. The
24 SOC Consortium was created in 1972 to provide educational
25 opportunities to servicemembers who had trouble completing
26 college degrees because of their frequent relocations. The SOC
27 Consortium serves as a vehicle to help coordinate voluntary
28 postsecondary educational opportunities for servicemembers by:
29 advocating for the flexibility needed to improve access to and
30 availability of educational programs for servicemembers; helping
31 the military and higher education communities understand and
32 respond to each other's resources, limits, and requirements for
33 meeting the education and training needs of servicemembers; and
34 strengthening the working relationships among military and higher
35 education representatives. Today, the SOC Consortium includes
36 more than 1,800 colleges and universities among its members,
37 including 27 institutions of higher education in this State.