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SYNOPSIS
Requires public and independent institutions of higher education to collect and report employment data for certain graduates.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT
Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel
AN ACT concerning information provided by public and independent institutions of higher education and amending P.L.2009, c.197.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. Section 2 of P.L.2009, c.197 (C.18A:3B-44) is amended to read as follows:
   2. a. A four-year public or independent institution of higher education shall provide for public inspection on its website comprehensive information on the cost of attendance, the graduation rates of admitted students, and the faculty of the institution, and shall also provide for public inspection on its website employment data for recent graduates of the institution. The purpose of the information shall be to maximize the awareness of students and their families of the costs associated with enrollment in the institution, the institution's success in ensuring the graduation and employment of its students, and the composition of the teaching faculty that a student will encounter in his coursework. The institution shall post, and annually update, a student consumer information report on its website that includes:
      (1) overall four-year and six-year graduation rates;
      (2) four-year and six-year graduation rates by demographic group;
      (3) four-year and six-year graduation rates by major;
      (4) four-year and six-year graduation rates for student-athletes;
      (5) the student transfer rate;
      (6) an overview of the institutions to which former students of that college or university have transferred prior to the completion of a degree;
      (7) the cost for the current academic year of attending the institution including tuition, student fees, room and board, and books and materials;
      (8) a description of the types of financial assistance offered directly by the institution to both student-athletes and to students who do not participate in athletic programs at the institution;
      (9) the percent of student-athletes who receive financial assistance directly from the institution and the average value of the assistance and the percent of students who do not participate in athletic programs at the institution who receive financial assistance directly from the institution and the average value of the assistance;
      (10) the total projected cost for an incoming freshman to live on campus and complete a degree in four years and the total projected...
cost for an incoming freshman to commute to school and complete a
degree in four years;
(11) the total projected cost for an incoming freshman to live on
campus and complete a degree in six years and the total projected
cost for an incoming freshman to commute to school and complete a
degree in six years;
(12) average student loan indebtedness of four-year graduates for
both students who live on campus and students who commute;
(13) average student loan indebtedness of six-year graduates for
both students who live on campus and students who commute;
(14) average student loan indebtedness of a student who
withdraws from the institution prior to the completion of a degree
program for both students who live on campus and students who
commute;
(15) an overview of the institution’s faculty, including the
percentage of faculty employed as a tenured professor, the
percentage of faculty employed as a full-time non-tenured
professor, and the percentage of faculty employed as an adjunct or
visiting professor;
(16) the percentage of courses taught by each of the different
categories of faculty; [and]
(17) an indicator of each academic department’s capacity to serve
the students majoring within that department’s programs, as
determined by the [Commission on] Secretary of Higher
Education; and
(18) employment data beginning with data compiled for students
who graduated from the institution during the 2013-2014 academic
year. The employment data may include, but need not be limited to:
majors which resulted in the highest full-time employment and
highest annual salary; majors which resulted in the lowest full-time
employment and lowest annual salary; the overall number and
percentage of students who are employed one year following
graduation from the institution; and the annual average salary
earned by students one year following graduation from the
institution. In addition to being displayed on the institution’s
website, the employment data shall be provided to each incoming
freshman prior to initial course registration.
The institution shall provide with all paper applications for
admission to the institution a hard copy of the information prepared
pursuant to this section.
b. A four-year public or independent institution of higher
education shall conform to the guidelines, criteria, and format
prescribed by the [Commission on] Secretary of Higher Education
in reporting the information required pursuant to this section.
c. A four-year public or independent institution of higher
education shall submit its student consumer information report to
the [Commission on] Secretary of Higher Education for inclusion
in a comparative profile of the student consumer information reports of all four-year public and independent institutions of higher education.

d. A four-year public or independent institution of higher education shall ensure that the page of its Internet site which includes its student consumer information report contains a link to the page of the [Commission on] Secretary of Higher Education's Internet site that includes the comparative profile required pursuant to subsection b. of section 3 of this act.

e. A four-year public or independent institution of higher education shall ensure that the Internet site for submitting an online application to the institution contains a link to the institution's student consumer information report.

f. A four-year public or independent institution of higher education shall require the parent or guardian of a student applying for admission into the institution, or the student if he is an independent adult, to sign and submit a statement acknowledging that he has reviewed the institution's student consumer information report.

(cf: P.L.2009, c.197, s.2)

2. Section 3 of P.L.2009, c.197 (C.18A:3B-45) is amended to read as follows:

3. a. The [Commission on] Secretary of Higher Education shall issue guidelines and criteria for collecting and calculating the information required pursuant to section 2 of this act and shall prescribe a uniform reporting method for posting the information.

b. The [Commission on] Secretary of Higher Education shall annually compile the student consumer information reports submitted pursuant to subsection c. of section 2 of this act into a comparative profile of all four-year public and independent institutions of higher education. The [commission] secretary shall present the information on its website in a manner that allows college students and their families to easily compare student consumer information across public institutions and across independent institutions.

(cf: P.L.2009, c.197, s.3)

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill requires public and independent institutions of higher education to collect and report employment data for recent graduates and to post the information on their websites. The bill also provides that independent institutions of higher education will
be subject to the provisions of the “New Jersey College Student and Parent Consumer Information Act,” P.L.2009, c.197 (C.18A:3B-43 et seq.). Under that act, public institutions of higher education are currently required to provide for public inspection on their websites information on the cost of attendance, the graduation rates of admitted students, and the faculty of the institution. This bill amends that law to require the independent institutions to provide the same information on their websites, and to include employment data for recent graduates.

The bill provides that independent institutions of higher education will also be subject to the provisions of the “New Jersey College Student and Parent Consumer Information Act” and the requirement to provide employment data for recent graduates.