

SENATE, No. 2567

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 26, 2016

Sponsored by:

Senator NILSA CRUZ-PEREZ
District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)
Senator ROBERT W. SINGER
District 30 (Monmouth and Ocean)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Beach, Beck and Pou

SYNOPSIS

Establishes “High School to College Readiness Commission” to examine issues and develop recommendations to enhance student preparation for postsecondary education.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/20/2017)

1 AN ACT establishing the “High School to College Readiness
2 Commission.”

3

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

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7 1. There is established a High School to College Readiness
8 Commission for the purpose of examining issues and developing
9 recommendations to enhance student preparation for postsecondary
10 education, and to raise the awareness of students and parents on the
11 admission requirements and the financial and other issues
12 associated with postsecondary education. The commission shall
13 consist of 18 members as follows: the Commissioner of Education,
14 ex officio, or a designee; the Secretary of Higher Education, ex
15 officio, or a designee; the Executive Director of the Higher
16 Education Student Assistance Authority, ex officio, or a designee;
17 11 members appointed by the Governor, including a representative
18 of the New Jersey School Boards Association, a representative of
19 the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association, a
20 representative of the New Jersey Association of School
21 Administrators, two representatives of the New Jersey Education
22 Association, two representatives of the American Federation of
23 Teachers New Jersey, a representative of the New Jersey Parent-
24 Teacher Association, a representative of the New Jersey Council of
25 County Vocational-Technical Schools, and two parents of students
26 enrolled in a public school; two members appointed by the
27 President of the Senate, including a representative of the State
28 colleges and universities established pursuant to chapter 64 of Title
29 18A of the New Jersey Statutes, and a representative of the public
30 research universities; and two members appointed by the Speaker of
31 the General Assembly, including a representative of the county
32 colleges, and a representative of the independent institutions of
33 higher education.

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35 2. Appointments to the commission shall be made within 30
36 days of the effective date of this act. Vacancies in the membership
37 of the commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original
38 appointments were made. Members of the commission shall serve
39 without compensation but shall be reimbursed for necessary
40 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties within the
41 limits of funds made available to the commission for its purposes.

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43 3. The commission shall organize as soon as practicable, but no
44 later than 30 days following the appointment of the members. The
45 commission shall choose a chairperson from among its members
46 and shall appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the
47 commission.

1 4. Staff and related support services shall be provided to the
2 commission by the Department of Education. The commission
3 shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail itself of the
4 services of the employees of any State, county or municipal
5 department, board, bureau, commission or agency it may require
6 and as may be available for its purposes.

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8 5. It shall be the duty of the commission to study and develop
9 recommendations on issues related to enhancing student preparation
10 for postsecondary education and raising the awareness of students
11 and parents on the admission requirements and the financial and
12 other issues associated with postsecondary education, including:

13 a. the development of guidelines for high school students to
14 create individual graduation plans which identify the courses
15 necessary to meet State and local graduation requirements and
16 college admission requirements;

17 b. the promotion of dual enrollment programs in which high
18 schools partner with institutions of higher education to offer
19 coursework that may be applied towards both high school
20 graduation requirements and postsecondary degrees;

21 c. the expansion of access to advanced placement courses to
22 increase the number of high school students who have the
23 opportunity to earn college credit while enrolled in high school;

24 d. the expansion of financial literacy instruction for high school
25 students and their parents to ensure that the instruction is provided
26 continuously throughout a student's enrollment in high school, and
27 that the instruction includes information on available State and
28 federal tuition assistance programs, grants, scholarships, student
29 loan programs, and issues concerning student loan debt and the
30 requirements associated with the repayment of that debt;

31 e. the early identification of students who are at risk of not
32 being college-ready by the time of high school graduation, and the
33 development and implementation of effective support services and
34 remediation to provide those students with the necessary skills; and

35 f. any other proposals that the commission feels would
36 increase the preparedness of high school students for postsecondary
37 education.

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39 6. The commission shall issue a report of its findings and
40 recommendations to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant
41 to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), no later than one
42 year following its organizational meeting.

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44 7. This act shall take effect immediately, and the commission
45 shall expire 30 days after the submission of its report.

STATEMENT

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3 This bill establishes a High School to College Readiness
4 Commission. Under the bill, the commission will consist of 18
5 members including: the Commissioner of Education, the Secretary
6 of Higher Education, and the Executive Director of the Higher
7 Education Student Assistance Authority, or their designees; 11
8 members appointed by the Governor, including a representative of
9 the New Jersey School Boards Association, a representative of the
10 New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association, a representative
11 of the New Jersey Association of School Administrators, two
12 representatives of the New Jersey Education Association, two
13 representatives of the American Federation of Teachers New Jersey,
14 a representative of the New Jersey Parent-Teacher Association, a
15 representative of the New Jersey Council of County Vocational-
16 Technical Schools, and two parents of students enrolled in a public
17 school; two members appointed by the President of the Senate,
18 including a representative of the State colleges and universities, and
19 a representative of the public research universities; and two
20 members appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly,
21 including a representative of the county colleges, and a
22 representative of the independent institutions of higher education.

23 It will be the duty of the commission to study and develop
24 recommendations on issues related to enhancing student preparation
25 for postsecondary education and raising the awareness of students
26 and parents on the admission requirements and the financial and
27 other issues associated with postsecondary education, including
28 among others:

- 29 • the promotion of dual enrollment programs in which high
30 schools partner with institutions of higher education to offer
31 coursework that may be applied towards both high school
32 graduation requirements and postsecondary degrees;
- 33 • the expansion of financial literacy instruction for high school
34 students and their parents to ensure that the instruction is
35 provided continuously throughout a student's enrollment in
36 high school; and
- 37 • the early identification of students who are at risk of not
38 being college-ready by the time of high school graduation,
39 and the development and implementation of effective
40 support services and remediation to provide those students
41 with the necessary skills.

42 The bill directs the commission to issue a final report of its
43 findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature
44 no later than one year after its organizational meeting. The
45 commission will expire 30 days after the submission of the final
46 report.