SYNOPSIS
Establishes Campus Sexual Assault Commission.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT
Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.
AN ACT establishing a Campus Sexual Assault Commission and
supplementing chapter 3B of Title 18A of the New Jersey
Statutes.

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

1. a. There is established a Campus Sexual Assault
Commission in, but not of, the Department of State. The
commission shall consist of 12 members including:
   (1) the Secretary of Higher Education, the Attorney General,
   and the Director of the Division on Women in the Department of
   Children and Families, or their designees, who shall serve ex
   officio;
   (2) five public members appointed by the Governor, including a
   representative of the State colleges and universities established
   pursuant to chapter 64 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes, a
   representative of the public research universities, a representative of
   the county colleges, a representative of the independent colleges
   and universities, and a representative of the New Jersey Coalition
   Against Sexual Assault; and
   (3) four public members with demonstrated expertise or interest
   in issues related to the work of the commission, including at least
   one individual who is a campus sexual assault survivor. The
   President of the Senate, the Speaker of the General Assembly, the
   Minority Leader of the Senate, and the Minority Leader of the
   General Assembly shall each appoint one of these public members.
   b. The public members shall serve for a term of three years, but
   of the members first appointed: three of the members appointed by
   the Governor shall serve for a term of three years; one of the
   members appointed by the Governor, the member appointed by the
   President of the Senate, and the member appointed by the Speaker
   of the General Assembly shall serve for a term of two years; and
   one of the members appointed by the Governor, the member
   appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate, and the member
   appointed by the Minority Leader of the General Assembly shall
   serve for a term of one year.
   c. Vacancies in the membership of the commission shall be
   filled in the same manner as the original appointments are made and
   a member may be eligible for reappointment. Vacancies occurring
   other than by expiration of a term shall be filled for the unexpired
   term.
   d. The members of the commission shall serve without
   compensation but shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses
   necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties within the
   limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the
   commission for its purposes.
2. The commission shall organize as soon as practicable following the appointment of its members, but no later than 60 days after the effective date of this act. The commission shall choose a chairperson from among its members and shall appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the commission. The commission shall meet quarterly, at a minimum.

3. The Office of the Secretary of Higher Education shall provide such stenographic, clerical, and other administrative assistants, and such professional staff as the commission requires to carry out its work. The commission also shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail itself of the services of the employees of any State, county, or municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it may require and as may be available for its purposes.

4. It shall be the responsibility of the commission to further the work of the Task Force on Campus Sexual Assault established pursuant to P.L.2015, c.165. In particular, the commission shall:
   a. study and evaluate emerging issues, policies, and practices concerning campus sexual assault;
   b. monitor the response to, and implementation of, the recommendations put forth in the report issued by the task force established pursuant to P.L.2015, c.165;
   c. supplement the findings and recommendations, as necessary, of the report issued by the task force established pursuant to P.L.2015, c.165;
   d. develop and administer, in consultation with the Secretary of Higher Education, a campus climate survey every three years; and
   e. develop an action plan every three years that includes policies, programs, or procedures responsive to the issues and needs identified in the campus climate survey.

5. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill establishes in, but not of, the Department of State, a Campus Sexual Assault Commission. The commission will consist of 12 members including:
   (1) the Secretary of Higher Education, the Attorney General, and the Director of the Division on Women in the Department of Children and Families, or their designees, who will serve ex officio;
   (2) five public members appointed by the Governor, including a representative of the State colleges and universities, a representative of the public research universities, a representative of the county colleges, a representative of the independent colleges and
universities, and a representative of the New Jersey Coalition
Against Sexual Assault; and
(3) four public members with demonstrated expertise or interest
in issues related to the work of the commission, including at least
one individual who is a campus sexual assault survivor. The
President of the Senate, the Speaker of the General Assembly, the
Minority Leader of the Senate, and the Minority Leader of the
General Assembly will each appoint one of these public members.
Public members will serve for a term of three years.

The bill requires the commission to organize as soon as
practicable, but no later than 60 days after the effective date of the
bill’s enactment. The commission will meet quarterly, at a
minimum.

The bill provides that it will be the responsibility of the
commission to further the work of the Task Force on Campus
Sexual Assault established pursuant to P.L.2015, c.165. In
particular, the commission is required to:

• study and evaluate emerging issues, policies, and
practices concerning campus sexual assault;
• monitor the response to, and implementation of, the
recommendations put forth in the report issued by the task
force;
• supplement the findings and recommendations, as
necessary, of the report issued by the task force;
• develop and administer, in consultation with the Secretary
of Higher Education, a campus climate survey every three
years; and
• develop an action plan every three years that includes
policies, programs, or procedures responsive to the issues
and needs identified in the campus climate survey.