

ASSEMBLY, No. 3440

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 5, 2018

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman GARY S. SCHAER

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman ROBERT J. KARABINCHAK

District 18 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman NANCY J. PINKIN

District 18 (Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Jones and Assemblyman Johnson

SYNOPSIS

Requires institutions of higher education to provide alternative arrangements to students unable to complete certain assignments by regular due date or register for courses because of day of religious observance.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/30/2018)

1 AN ACT concerning religious accommodations for students
2 attending institutions of higher education and amending
3 P.L.2008, c.10.

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

7
8 1. Section 1 of P.L.2008, c.10 (C.18A:3B-37) is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 1. a. An institution of higher education shall provide any
11 student who, for reason of a religious observance, cannot attend a
12 test or examination at its regular administration with an alternative
13 opportunity to take an equivalent test or examination. The
14 alternative opportunity shall be offered as soon after or before the
15 regular administration of the test as is possible, and at comparable
16 times, places, and costs. The institution may request that the
17 student provide a written explanation of the religious conflict
18 signed by a clergyman of the student's place of worship.

19 b. An institution of higher education shall provide any student
20 who, for reason of a religious observance, cannot attend class on a
21 day when any type of assignment is due including, but not limited
22 to, papers, presentations, or group assignments, with an alternative
23 opportunity to complete the assignment. The alternative
24 opportunity shall be offered as soon after or before the regular due
25 date of the assignment as is possible, and at comparable times,
26 places, and costs. The institution may request that the student
27 provide a written explanation of the religious conflict signed by a
28 clergyman of the student's place of worship. The institution shall
29 not impose any type of penalty on a student who is unable to attend
30 class for reason of a religious observance.

31 c. An institution of higher education shall provide any student
32 who, for reason of a religious observance, is unable to register for
33 courses on a day when students are eligible to participate in course
34 registration with an alternative opportunity to register for courses.
35 The alternative opportunity shall be offered as soon after or before
36 the regular date of course registration as is possible, and at
37 comparable times, places, and costs. The institution may request
38 that the student provide a written explanation of the religious
39 conflict signed by a clergyman of the student's place of worship.

40 (cf: P.L.2008, c.10, s.1)

41
42 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

43
44 STATEMENT

45
46 Under current law, institutions of higher education are required
47 to provide any student who, for reason of a religious observance,

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 cannot attend a test or examination at its regular administration with
2 an alternative opportunity to take an equivalent test or examination.
3 This bill amends that law to also require that an institution provide
4 a student who, for reason of a religious observance, cannot attend
5 class on a day when any type of assignment is due, including
6 papers, presentations, or group assignments, or who is unable to
7 register for courses on a day when students are eligible to
8 participate in course registration, with an alternative opportunity to
9 complete the assignment or register for courses. The institution is
10 not permitted to impose any type of penalty on a student who is
11 unable to attend class for reason of a religious observance.
12 Under the bill, the institution may request that the student
13 provide a written explanation of the religious conflict signed by a
14 clergyman of the student's place of worship.