

SENATE, No. 356

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH P. CRYAN

District 20 (Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Gopal

SYNOPSIS

Establishes study commission to examine development of mutually beneficial relationships between institutions of higher education and municipalities.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** establishing a commission to study beneficial relationships
2 between institutions of higher education and municipalities.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. a. There is established a study commission for the purpose
8 of examining the development of mutually beneficial relationships
9 between institutions of higher education and the municipalities in
10 which the institutions are located. The commission shall consist of
11 14 members as follows:

12 (1) the Secretary of Higher Education, or a designee;

13 (2) eight members appointed by the Governor, including a
14 representative of the State colleges and universities established
15 pursuant to chapter 64 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes, a
16 representative of the public research universities, a representative of
17 the county colleges, a representative of the independent colleges
18 and universities, a mayor or designee of a municipality in which a
19 State college or university is located, a mayor or designee of a
20 municipality in which a public research university is located, a
21 mayor or designee of a municipality in which a county college is
22 located, and a mayor or designee of a municipality in which an
23 independent college or university is located;

24 (3) a representative of the New Jersey State League of
25 Municipalities; and

26 (4) four members of the public with demonstrated expertise or
27 interest in issues related to the work of the commission. The
28 President of the Senate, the Speaker of the General Assembly, the
29 Minority Leader of the Senate, and the Minority Leader of the
30 General Assembly shall each appoint one of the public members.

31 b. Appointments to the commission shall be made within 30
32 days of the effective date of this act. Vacancies in the membership
33 of the commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original
34 appointments were made.

35 c. Members of the commission shall serve without
36 compensation but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses
37 incurred in the performance of their duties within the limits of funds
38 made available to the commission for its purposes.

39

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

45 b. The Office of the Secretary of Higher Education shall
46 provide such professional staff and related support services as the
47 commission requires to carry out its work. The commission also
48 shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail itself of the

1 services of the employees of any State, county, or municipal
2 department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it may require
3 and as may be available to it for its purposes.
4

5 3. It shall be the duty of the study commission to examine the
6 creation and implementation of mutually beneficial relationships
7 between the State's institutions of higher education and the
8 municipalities in which the institutions are located. The
9 commission shall study and consider issues including, but not
10 limited to, the following:

11 a. ways in which institutions of higher education and
12 municipalities may work closely together to foster relationships that
13 will benefit the institution, the institution's students, and the
14 community;

15 b. ways to increase the engagement of institutions of higher
16 education with their surrounding communities in order to address
17 and respond to community needs;

18 c. specific types of structured partnerships that may mutually
19 benefit institutions of higher education and their surrounding
20 communities including, but not limited to, partnerships related to
21 academic programs, research, student internship and work
22 opportunities, and community service and outreach;

23 d. the process by which an institution of higher education may
24 acquire additional land, including whether the municipality should
25 be required to approve the procurement of new land; and

26 e. recommendations or best practices for institutions of higher
27 education and municipalities regarding the creation and
28 implementation of mutually beneficial relationships and
29 partnerships.
30

31 4. The commission shall issue a report of its findings and
32 recommendations to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant
33 to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), no later than 12
34 months after the commission organizes.
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36 5. This act shall take effect immediately, and the commission
37 shall expire 30 days after the submission of its report.
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40 STATEMENT

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42 This bill establishes a study commission that will examine the
43 creation and implementation of mutually beneficial relationships
44 between the State's institutions of higher education and the
45 municipalities in which the institutions are located. The
46 commission will include the following 14 members: the Secretary
47 of Higher Education; eight members appointed by the Governor,
48 including a representative of the State colleges and universities, a

1 representative of the public research universities, a representative of
2 the county colleges, a representative of the independent colleges
3 and universities, a mayor of a municipality in which a State college
4 or university is located, a mayor of a municipality in which a public
5 research university is located, a mayor of a municipality in which a
6 county college is located, and a mayor of a municipality in which an
7 independent college or university is located; and four public
8 members with demonstrated expertise or interest in issues related to
9 the work of the commission.

10 Under the bill, the commission will study and consider the
11 following issues: (a) ways in which institutions of higher education
12 and municipalities may work closely together to foster relationships
13 that will benefit the institution, the institution's students, and the
14 community; (b) ways to increase the engagement of institutions of
15 higher education with their surrounding communities in order to
16 address and respond to community needs; (c) specific types of
17 structured partnerships that may mutually benefit institutions of
18 higher education and their surrounding communities including, but
19 not limited to, partnerships related to academic programs, research,
20 student internship and work opportunities, and community service
21 and outreach; (d) the process by which an institution of higher
22 education may acquire additional land, including whether the
23 municipality should be required to approve the procurement of new
24 land; and (e) recommendations or best practices for institutions of
25 higher education and municipalities regarding the creation and
26 implementation of mutually beneficial relationships and
27 partnerships.

28 The bill directs the study commission to issue a report of its
29 findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature
30 no later than 12 months after the commission organizes.