

SENATE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2892

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 19, 2020

The Senate Higher Education Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2892.

This bill requires the Secretary of Higher Education to establish a program to assist institutions of higher education in the recruitment and retention of underrepresented students in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) programs. Underrepresented students include women and students from other populations historically underrepresented in the STEM fields. The purpose of the program is to develop guidance and strategies for the institutions to:

- identify cultural and institutional barriers experienced by underrepresented students, including an assessment of the academic, social, and family-related factors which may negatively impact the recruitment and retention of those students into the STEM fields; and
- provide the students with the institutional and faculty support necessary to allow underrepresented students in STEM programs to reach their academic goals.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 1070, which also was reported by the committee on this same date.