

ASSEMBLY, No. 1486

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 5, 1996

By Assemblyman ROMANO

1 AN ACT establishing a higher education study commission and making
2 an appropriation.

3

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

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7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. Pursuant to the Higher Education Restructuring Act, P.L. 1994,
9 c. 48 (C. 18A:3B-1 et seq.), the Governor abolished the Board and
10 Department of Higher Education and replaced it with the Commission
11 on Higher Education and the President's Council to coordinate the
12 oversight of the higher education system through statewide policy and
13 planning initiatives; and

14 b. There are many possible approaches to the reorganization of the
15 system of higher education and various models which should have
16 been studied prior to replacing the structure of higher education
17 oversight and coordination; and

18 c. An issue of this complexity should receive the careful and full
19 deliberation of the Legislature, and provide for the maximum
20 involvement of the public prior to final resolution of the issue; and

21 d. The most effective way to ensure the full public discussion of
22 the future of higher education in this State is to establish a study
23 commission to determine the way in which New Jersey's colleges and
24 universities should be organized in the future.

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26 2. There is created a commission to be known as the "New Jersey
27 Higher Education Study Commission."

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29 3. The commission shall consist of 25 members to be appointed by
30 the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Four of the
31 members shall be representatives of the public and independent
32 institutions of higher education in the State. The remaining members
33 shall include: individuals knowledgeable in the areas of labor,
34 employment, economic development; individuals with background and
35 experience in the areas of education and higher education, especially
36 in matters of higher education governance; and, members of the
37 general public, including at least one student currently enrolled in a

1 New Jersey college or university. Not more than 13 of the members
2 shall be of the same political party. Vacancies in the membership of
3 the commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original
4 appointments were made. Members of the commission shall serve
5 without compensation but shall be reimbursed for the necessary
6 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as members of the
7 commission within the limits of funds appropriated to the commission.
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9 4. The members of the commission shall be appointed by the
10 Governor no later than 30 days after the effective date of this act. The
11 commission shall organize within 15 days after the appointment of its
12 members and shall elect a chair from among its members and select a
13 a secretary who need not be a member of the commission.
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15 5. It shall be the duty of the commission to conduct a study of the
16 system of higher education in New Jersey, in conjunction with other
17 state systems, in order to determine the most effective and efficient
18 organizational structure to replace or improve the current structure of
19 higher education oversight and coordination. In conducting this study,
20 the commission shall seek the advice of individuals with a national
21 reputation in the field of higher education. Also, the commission shall
22 ensure that there is adequate opportunity for input from New Jersey's
23 business community, the higher education community, and members
24 of the general public.
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26 6. The commission shall be entitled to the assistance and services
27 of the employees of any State, county or municipal department, board,
28 bureau, commission or agency which it may require and as may be
29 available to it for its purposes and to employ such stenographic and
30 clerical assistants and incur traveling and other miscellaneous expenses
31 as necessary to perform its duties and as may be within the limits of
32 funds appropriated or otherwise made available to it for its purposes.
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34 7. The commission may meet and hold hearings at such place or
35 places as it shall designate and shall report its findings and
36 recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature no later than six
37 months after it has organized and held its first meeting, and may
38 accompany the same with any legislative bills which it may desire to
39 recommend for adoption by the Legislature.
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41 8. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Office of the
42 Governor \$99,000 to effectuate the provisions of this act.
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44 9. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire upon the
45 submission of the commission's report to the Legislature.

1 STATEMENT

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3 This bill establishes a Higher Education Study Commission, which
4 shall conduct a study of the system of higher education in New Jersey,
5 along with other state systems, in order to determine the most
6 effective and efficient organizational structure to replace or improve
7 the current structure of higher education oversight and coordination.
8 In conducting this study, the commission is to seek the advice of
9 nationally recognized experts in the field of higher education and is to
10 provide opportunity for public input. The commission is to report to
11 the Governor and the Legislature no later than six months following
12 its first meeting. The commission expires upon the submission of its
13 report to the Legislature.

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18 Establishes a commission to determine the best organizational
19 structure for the State higher education system; appropriates \$99,000.