

ASSEMBLY, No. 2069

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman CLINTON CALABRESE

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Directs State Auditor to conduct performance review audits of public institutions of higher education.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT directing the State Auditor to conduct performance review
2 audits of the public institutions of higher education.

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

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7 1. a. The State Auditor is directed to conduct a performance
8 review audit of each public institution of higher education. For
9 each institution, the performance review audit shall include, but
10 need not be limited to:

11 (1) an analysis of the prevalence, cost, and quality of online
12 courses offered by the institution;

13 (2) a review of the remedial courses offered by the institution
14 and the effectiveness of those courses in preparing students for
15 credit-bearing courses;

16 (3) a review of the fees charged by the institution, the
17 appropriate level of those fees, and whether fees are being used by
18 the institution as a mechanism to artificially deflate required tuition
19 costs;

20 (4) an analysis of the market value of the degrees offered by the
21 institution compared to the costs associated with earning that
22 degree; and

23 (5) a review of the four-year and six-year graduation rates in the
24 case of students enrolled in a four-year baccalaureate degree
25 program, and of the two-year and three-year graduation rates for
26 students enrolled in a two-year associate degree program, to
27 determine the extent and causes of low graduation rates at the
28 institution.

29 b. The institutions of higher education to receive a performance
30 review audit shall be Rutgers, the State University; Rowan
31 University; the New Jersey Institute of Technology; Montclair State
32 University; the State colleges and universities established pursuant
33 to chapter 64 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes; and the
34 county colleges.

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36 2. Within one year of the effective date of this act, the State
37 Auditor shall submit a report to the Governor, and to the Legislature
38 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), on the
39 results of the performance review audits conducted pursuant to
40 section 1 of this act.

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42 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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44 STATEMENT

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46 This bill directs the State Auditor to conduct a performance
47 review audit of each New Jersey public institution of higher
48 education. The audit will include, but need not be limited to:

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- 1 • an analysis of the prevalence, cost, and quality of online
2 courses offered by the institution;
- 3 • a review of the remedial courses offered by the institution
4 and the effectiveness of those courses in preparing
5 students for credit-bearing courses;
- 6 • a review of the fees charged by the institution, the
7 appropriate level of those fees, and whether fees are being
8 used by the institution as a mechanism to artificially
9 deflate required tuition costs;
- 10 • an analysis of the market value of degrees offered by the
11 institution compared to the cost associated with earning
12 that degree; and
- 13 • a review of four-year and six-year graduation rates for
14 students enrolled in a four-year baccalaureate degree
15 program, and a review of two-year and three-year
16 graduation rates for students enrolled in a two-year
17 associate degree program, to determine the extent and
18 causes of low graduation rates at the institution.

19 The bill requires that the State Auditor prepare and submit a
20 report of the findings of the audits to the Governor and the
21 Legislature within one year of the bill's effective date.