

**ASSEMBLY, No. 5381**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 23, 2021

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY**

**District 27 (Essex and Morris)**

**Assemblyman WILLIAM F. MOEN, JR.**

**District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)**

**Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywomen Timberlake, McKnight, Swain and Assemblyman Tully**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires financial aid award letter provided by institutions of higher education and certain proprietary schools be consistent with financial aid shopping sheet.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/3/2021)**

1 AN ACT concerning student financial aid and supplementing  
2 P.L.1994, c.48 (C.18A:3B-1 et al.).  
3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
5 *of New Jersey:*  
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7 1. a. In the event that a public or independent institution of  
8 higher education or a proprietary institution licensed to offer  
9 academic degrees provides a financial aid award letter to a student,  
10 the financial aid award letter shall:

11 (1) be presented in a manner, and in such language, that is  
12 substantially similar to that which is used in, and uses terms as  
13 defined in, the financial aid shopping sheet provided to students  
14 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.2019, c.201 (C.18A:3B-6b);

15 (2) clearly display the estimated net cost to attend the  
16 institution;

17 (3) clearly differentiate a student's eligibility for loans from a  
18 student's eligibility for other forms of financial aid, including  
19 grants and scholarships; and

20 (4) include a clear statement that the acceptance or decline of  
21 one or more loan offers shall not impact a student's eligibility for  
22 any other grants or scholarships detailed in the student's financial  
23 aid award letter.

24 b. A student enrolled in a public or independent institution of  
25 higher education or a proprietary institution licensed to offer  
26 academic degrees shall be ineligible to receive any form of student  
27 assistance from the State, including grants, scholarships, and loans,  
28 in the event that the institution or school fails to meet the  
29 requirements established pursuant to subsection a. of this section, as  
30 determined by the Secretary of Higher Education.  
31

32 2. This act shall take effect on the 30th day after the date of  
33 enactment.  
34  
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36 STATEMENT  
37

38 This bill requires institutions of higher education and certain  
39 proprietary schools that provide students with a financial aid award  
40 letter to do so in a manner that is consistent with the financial aid  
41 shopping sheet that these institutions and schools must provide to  
42 students, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.2019, c.201 (C.18A:3B-6b).  
43 The financial aid shopping sheet has been designed to improve  
44 students' and parents' understanding of higher education costs and  
45 financial aid options.

46 Under the bill, in the event that a public or independent  
47 institution of higher education or a proprietary institution licensed

1 to offer academic degrees provides a financial aid award letter to a  
2 student, the financial aid award letter must:

- 3 • be presented in a manner, and in such language, and using  
4 defined terms substantially similar to that which is used in  
5 the financial aid shopping sheet;
- 6 • clearly display the estimated net cost to attend the  
7 institution;
- 8 • clearly differentiate a student's eligibility for loans from a  
9 student's eligibility for other forms of financial aid; and
- 10 • include a clear statement that the acceptance or decline of  
11 one or more loan offers will not impact a student's eligibility  
12 for any other grants or scholarships detailed in the student's  
13 financial aid award letter.

14 The bill also provides that a student enrolled in a public or  
15 independent institution of higher education or a proprietary  
16 institution licensed to offer academic degrees will be ineligible to  
17 receive any form of student assistance from the State, including  
18 grants, scholarships, and loans, in the event that the institution or  
19 school fails to meet the bill's requirements, as determined by the  
20 Secretary of Higher Education.