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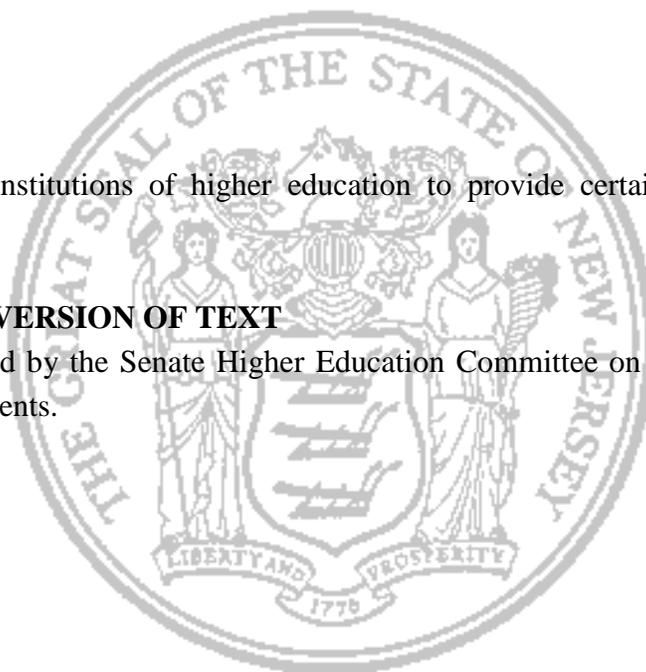
**Senators Cunningham, Lagana, Turner, Assemblywoman Chaparro,
Assemblyman Benson, Assemblywoman Timberlake, Assemblymen
Spearman, Conaway, Zwicker, Assemblywomen McKnight and Lopez**

SYNOPSIS

Requires institutions of higher education to provide certain student loan information.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Higher Education Committee on June 15, 2021, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/20/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning information provided by institutions of higher
2 education and supplementing and amending P.L.2009, c.197.

3

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

6

7 1. (New section) The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. According to the Institute for College Access & Success,
9 New Jersey ranks in the top five states nationally for student loan
10 debt amounts, with the average graduate leaving college
11 approximately \$34,000 in debt;

12 b. Despite New Jersey students graduating with significant
13 debt, there is insufficient publicly-available demographic
14 information on the State' over one million student loan borrowers;

15 c. The demographic information that is available, however,
16 shows significant racial disparities in student loan outcomes.
17 Borrowers in New Jersey's communities of color face default rates
18 two- to -five times higher than white borrowers in the State;

19 d. Even after factoring in financial aid, the average price of
20 attendance at New Jersey's four-year public institutions of higher
21 education represents about one-third of household income for the
22 State's Black and Latino families, compared to just 17 percent of
23 the State's white families;

24 e. Stark differences in family wealth in New Jersey have
25 resulted in enormous disparities for students based on race and
26 ethnicity relating to their financial need for college and their ability
27 to pay off student loans;

28 f. The development and implementation of informed policy to
29 understand and address issues related to student loan debt, including
30 related racial disparities in outcomes, requires access to reliable
31 State-level data on how borrowers experience their debt burden; and

32 g. Expanding data collection and dissemination of information
33 is crucial for understanding the extent of the burgeoning student
34 debt crisis in particular communities in the State and for developing
35 policies that prioritize equity in loan outcomes for borrowers.

36

37 2. Section 2 of P.L.2009, c.197 (C.18A:3B-44) is amended to
38 read as follows:

39 2. a. **[A four-year public]** An institution of higher education
40 shall provide for public inspection on its website comprehensive
41 information on the cost of attendance, the graduation rates of
42 admitted students, and the faculty of the institution. The purpose of
43 the information shall be to maximize the awareness of students and
44 their families of the costs associated with enrollment in the
45 institution, the institution's success in ensuring the graduation of its

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SHI committee amendments adopted June 15, 2021.

1 students, and the composition of the teaching faculty that a student
2 will encounter in his coursework. The institution shall post, and
3 annually update, a student consumer information report on its
4 website that includes, if applicable:

5 (1) ~~overall two-year and three-year graduation rates, and~~¹
6 overall three-year,¹ four-year ¹,¹ and six-year graduation rates, as
7 applicable;

8 (2) ~~two-year and~~¹ three-year ~~graduation rates by~~¹
9 demographic group¹ , ~~and~~¹ four-year ¹,¹ and six-year
10 graduation rates by demographic group, as applicable;

11 (3) ~~two-year and~~¹ three-year ~~graduation rates by major~~¹ ,
12 ~~and~~¹ four-year ¹,¹ and six-year graduation rates by major, as
13 applicable;

14 (4) ~~two-year and~~¹ three-year ~~graduation rates for student-~~¹
15 athletes¹ , ~~and~~¹ four-year ¹,¹ and six-year graduation rates for
16 student-athletes, as applicable;

17 (5) the student transfer rate;

18 (6) an overview of the institutions to which former students of
19 that college or university have transferred prior to the completion of
20 a degree;

21 (7) the cost for the current academic year of attending the
22 institution including tuition, student fees, room and board, and
23 books and materials;

24 (8) a description of the types of financial assistance offered
25 directly by the institution to both student-athletes and to students
26 who do not participate in athletic programs at the institution;

27 (9) the percent of student-athletes who receive financial
28 assistance directly from the institution and the average value of the
29 assistance and the percent of students who do not participate in
30 athletic programs at the institution who receive financial assistance
31 directly from the institution and the average value of the assistance;

32 (10) for four-year institutions of higher education, the total
33 projected cost for an incoming freshman to live on campus and
34 complete a degree in four years and the total projected cost for an
35 incoming freshman to commute to school and complete a degree in
36 four years;

37 (11) for four-year institutions of higher education, the total
38 projected cost for an incoming freshman to live on campus and
39 complete a degree in six years and the total projected cost for an
40 incoming freshman to commute to school and complete a degree in
41 six years;

42 (12) average student loan indebtedness of two-year and four-
43 year graduates for both students who live on campus and students
44 who commute, as applicable. The institution shall disaggregate the
45 data by: race, ethnicity, age, ~~income~~ family income at the time
46 of admission¹, gender, and first-generation status;

- 1 (13) average student loan indebtedness of three-year and six-
2 year graduates for both students who live on campus and students
3 who commute, as applicable. The institution shall disaggregate the
4 data by: race, ethnicity, age, ¹**income** family income at the time
5 of admission¹, gender, and first-generation status;
- 6 (14) average student loan indebtedness of a student who
7 transfers or withdraws from the institution prior to the completion
8 of a degree program for both students who live on campus and who
9 commute. The institution shall disaggregate the data by: race,
10 ethnicity, age, ¹**income** family income at the time of admission¹,
11 gender, and first-generation status;
- 12 (15) an overview of the institution's faculty, including the
13 percentage of faculty employed as a tenured professor, the
14 percentage of faculty employed as a full-time non-tenured
15 professor, and the percentage of faculty employed as an adjunct or
16 visiting professor;
- 17 (16) the percentage of courses taught by each of the different
18 categories of faculty; **and**
- 19 (17) an indicator of each academic department's capacity to
20 serve the students majoring within that department's programs, as
21 determined by the **Commission on** Secretary of Higher
22 Education; ¹and¹
- 23 (18) the number and percentage of borrowers ¹**of the New**
24 Jersey College Loans to Assist State Students (NJCLASS) Program
25 and the number and percentage of students with other forms of
26 student loans; and
- 27 (19) for each three-year cohort of students who have graduated,
28 transferred, or withdrawn from the institution prior to graduation,
29 beginning with the first cohort following the enactment of
30 P.L. c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) and
31 for each three-year cohort thereafter, the default rate of the
32 borrowers, the number and percentage of NJCLASS borrowers in
33 repayment, and the number and percentage of NJCLASS borrowers
34 in default,] for whom the institution has certified a supplemental
35 student loan,¹ disaggregated by ¹**the**¹ race, ethnicity, age,
36 ¹**income** family income at the time of admission¹, gender, and
37 first-generation status.
- 38 The institution shall provide with all paper applications for
39 admission to the institution a hard copy of the information prepared
40 pursuant to this section.
- 41 b. **A four-year public** An institution of higher education shall
42 conform to the guidelines, criteria, and format prescribed by the
43 **Commission on** Secretary of Higher Education in reporting the
44 information required pursuant to this section.
- 45 c. **A four-year public** An institution of higher education shall
46 submit its student consumer information report to the **Commission**

1 on] Secretary of Higher Education for inclusion in a comparative
2 profile of the student consumer information reports of all [four-year
3 public] institutions of higher education.

4 In addition to the information contained in the institutional
5 student consumer information reports pursuant to this section, the
6 comparative profile shall identify the existence of any racial
7 disparities in student loan indebtedness and loan default rates.

8 d. [A four-year public] An institution of higher education shall
9 ensure that the page of its Internet site which includes its student
10 consumer information report contains a link to the page of the
11 [Commission on] Secretary of Higher Education's Internet site that
12 includes the comparative profile required pursuant to subsection b.
13 of section 3 of this act.

14 e. [A four-year public] An institution of higher education shall
15 ensure that the Internet site for submitting an online application to
16 the institution contains a link to the institution's student consumer
17 information report.

18 f. [A four-year public] An institution of higher education shall
19 require the parent or guardian of a student applying for admission
20 into the institution, or the student if he is an independent adult, to
21 sign and submit a statement acknowledging that he has reviewed the
22 institution's student consumer information report.

23 (cf: P.L.2009, c.197, s.2)

24

25 3. Section 3 of P.L.2009, c.197 (C.18A:3B-45) is amended to
26 read as follows:

27 3. a. The [Commission on] Secretary of Higher Education shall
28 issue guidelines and criteria for collecting and calculating the
29 information required pursuant to section 2 of this act and shall
30 prescribe a uniform reporting method for posting the information.

31 b. The [Commission on] Secretary of Higher Education shall
32 annually compile the student consumer information reports
33 submitted pursuant to subsection c. of section 2 of this act into a
34 comparative profile of all four-year public institutions of higher
35 education. The [commission] secretary shall present the
36 information on its website in a manner that allows college students
37 and their families to easily compare student consumer information
38 across institutions.

39 (cf: P.L.2009, c.197, s.3)

40

41 4. This act shall take effect in the first full academic year
42 following the date of enactment.