

SENATE, No. 3106

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 1, 2017

Sponsored by:

Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM

District 31 (Hudson)

Senator NICHOLAS J. SACCO

District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators T.Kean and Turner

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/12/2017)

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 on-line
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 associates 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; the State
32 colleges and universities established pursuant to chapter 64 of Title
33 18A of the New Jersey Statutes; and the county colleges.

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

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41 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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

S3106 CUNNINGHAM, SACCO

- 1 • an analysis of the prevalence, cost, and quality of on-line
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 associates 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.