

ASSEMBLY, No. 243

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

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District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

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District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)

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SYNOPSIS

Requires tuition bills of public institutions of higher education to include details on student fees and opt-out provision for student-managed entertainment fees, and requires certain institutions' websites to include student fee information.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** concerning student fees at public institutions of higher
2 education, supplementing chapter 3B and chapter 62 of Title 18A
3 of the New Jersey Statutes, and amending P.L.2009, c.197.

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

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8 1. (New section) The Secretary of Higher Education shall
9 issue guidelines and criteria on the specific categories for use in the
10 breakdown of total student fees which is required to be included in
11 the student consumer information report pursuant to section 2 of
12 P.L.2009, c.197 (C.18A:3B-44) and on student tuition bills pursuant
13 to section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as
14 this bill). The categories shall include, but need not be limited to,
15 student-managed entertainment and capital improvements.

16
17 2. (New section) a. The governing body of a county college
18 and of a four-year public institution of higher education shall
19 include on student tuition bills a breakdown of the total student fees
20 by specific category in accordance with the guidelines and criteria
21 issued by the Secretary of Higher Education pursuant to section 1 of
22 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

23 b. Any amount payable on a student tuition bill as a student fee
24 for the category of student-managed entertainment shall be an
25 “optional fee.” For the purposes of this section, the “optional fee”
26 shall appear as a separately assessed item. The “optional fee” shall
27 be accompanied by a statement as to the nature of the item, and that
28 the item is a charge required to be paid by the student unless the
29 student affirmatively opts out of paying the fee.

30
31 3. Section 2 of P.L.2009, c.197 (C.18A:3B-44) is amended to
32 read as follows:

33 2. a. A four-year public institution of higher education shall
34 provide for public inspection on its website comprehensive
35 information on the cost of attendance, the graduation rates of
36 admitted students, and the faculty of the institution. The purpose of
37 the information shall be to maximize the awareness of students and
38 their families of the costs associated with enrollment in the
39 institution, the institution's success in ensuring the graduation of its
40 students, and the composition of the teaching faculty that a student
41 will encounter in his coursework. The institution shall post, and
42 annually update, a student consumer information report on its
43 website that includes:

44 (1) overall four-year and six-year graduation rates;

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.

- 1 (2) four-year and six-year graduation rates by demographic
2 group;
- 3 (3) four-year and six-year graduation rates by major;
- 4 (4) four-year and six-year graduation rates for student-athletes;
- 5 (5) the student transfer rate;
- 6 (6) an overview of the institutions to which former students of
7 that college or university have transferred prior to the completion of
8 a degree;
- 9 (7) the cost for the current academic year of attending the
10 institution including tuition, student fees, including a breakdown of
11 total student fees by specific category in accordance with the
12 guidelines and criteria issued by the Secretary of Higher Education
13 pursuant to section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
14 Legislature as this bill), room and board, and books and materials;
- 15 (8) a description of the types of financial assistance offered
16 directly by the institution to both student-athletes and to students
17 who do not participate in athletic programs at the institution;
- 18 (9) the percent of student-athletes who receive financial
19 assistance directly from the institution and the average value of the
20 assistance and the percent of students who do not participate in
21 athletic programs at the institution who receive financial assistance
22 directly from the institution and the average value of the assistance;
- 23 (10) the total projected cost for an incoming freshman to live on
24 campus and complete a degree in four years and the total projected
25 cost for an incoming freshman to commute to school and complete a
26 degree in four years;
- 27 (11) the total projected cost for an incoming freshman to live on
28 campus and complete a degree in six years and the total projected
29 cost for an incoming freshman to commute to school and complete a
30 degree in six years;
- 31 (12) average student loan indebtedness of four-year graduates for
32 both students who live on campus and students who commute;
- 33 (13) average student loan indebtedness of six-year graduates for
34 both students who live on campus and students who commute;
- 35 (14) average student loan indebtedness of a student who
36 withdraws from the institution prior to the completion of a degree
37 program for both students who live on campus and students who
38 commute;
- 39 (15) an overview of the institution's faculty, including the
40 percentage of faculty employed as a tenured professor, the
41 percentage of faculty employed as a full-time non-tenured
42 professor, and the percentage of faculty employed as an adjunct or
43 visiting professor;
- 44 (16) the percentage of courses taught by each of the different
45 categories of faculty; and
- 46 (17) an indicator of each academic department's capacity to serve
47 the students majoring within that department's programs, as

1 determined by the **【Commission on】** Secretary of Higher
2 Education.

3 The institution shall provide with all paper applications for
4 admission to the institution a hard copy of the information prepared
5 pursuant to this section.

6 b. A four-year public institution of higher education shall
7 conform to the guidelines, criteria, and format prescribed by the
8 **【Commission on】** Secretary of Higher Education in reporting the
9 information required pursuant to this section.

10 c. A four-year public institution of higher education shall
11 submit its student consumer information report to the **【Commission**
12 **on】** Secretary of Higher Education for inclusion in a comparative
13 profile of the student consumer information reports of all four-year
14 public institutions of higher education.

15 d. A four-year public institution of higher education shall
16 ensure that the page of its Internet site which includes its student
17 consumer information report contains a link to the page of the
18 **【Commission on】** Secretary of Higher Education's Internet site that
19 includes the comparative profile required pursuant to subsection b.
20 of section 3 of this act.

21 e. A four-year public institution of higher education shall
22 ensure that the Internet site for submitting an online application to
23 the institution contains a link to the institution's student consumer
24 information report.

25 f. A four-year public institution of higher education shall
26 require the parent or guardian of a student applying for admission
27 into the institution, or the student if he is an independent adult, to
28 sign and submit a statement acknowledging that he has reviewed the
29 institution's student consumer information report.

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

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32 4. This act shall take effect for the 2016-2017 academic year.

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STATEMENT

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37 This bill requires that student tuition bills for county colleges
38 and four-year public institutions of higher education include a
39 breakdown of the general item of "student fees" into specific
40 categories of fees. The categories used on the tuition bill will be
41 determined through guidelines and criteria issued by the Secretary
42 of Higher Education, but at a minimum will include "student-
43 managed entertainment" and "capital improvements." The bill
44 provides further that any amount payable on a student tuition bill as
45 a student fee for the category of "student-managed entertainment"
46 must be an "optional fee." The "optional fee" must be accompanied
47 by a statement as to the nature of the item, and that the item is a

1 charge required to be paid by the student unless the student
2 affirmatively opts out of paying the fee.
3 Pursuant to the “New Jersey College Student and Parent
4 Consumer Information Act,” P.L.2009, c.197 (C.18A:3B-43 et
5 seq.), four-year public institutions of higher education are required
6 to post on their websites, and annually update, a student consumer
7 information report which provides various types of information,
8 including the amount payable in the current academic year for
9 student fees. This bill requires that the information on the total
10 amount of student fees must also include a breakdown by specific
11 category of all the fees comprising the total. The categories used in
12 the student consumer information report will be the same as those
13 used on the student tuition bills.