

ASSEMBLY, No. 864

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman NICHOLAS CHIARAVALLOTI

District 31 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes task force to examine practice of four-year public institutions of higher education providing admission preference to family members of alumni.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** establishing a Task Force on Legacy Student Preference in
2 College Admissions.

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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. There is established the Task Force on Legacy Student
8 Preference in College Admissions. The purpose of the task force is
9 to examine issues related to the practice of four-year public
10 institutions of higher education providing admission preference to
11 family members of alumni of the institution, and to develop
12 recommendations to help ensure that students have equitable access
13 to admission to four-year public institutions of higher education.

14 b. The task force shall consist of 13 members as follows:

15 (1) the Secretary of Higher Education, ex officio, or a designee;

16 (2) one public member appointed by the President of the Senate
17 and one public member appointed by the Minority Leader of the
18 Senate, both of whom shall have demonstrated expertise in issues
19 related to the work of the task force;

20 (3) one public member appointed by the Speaker of the General
21 Assembly and one public member appointed by the Minority Leader
22 of the General Assembly, both of whom shall have demonstrated
23 expertise in issues relating to the work of the task force; and

24 (4) eight members appointed by the Governor, including: the
25 president of a public research university, or a designee; the
26 president of a State college or university established pursuant to
27 chapter 64 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes, or a designee; a
28 representative of the American Association of University
29 Professors; a representative of the Council of New Jersey State
30 College Locals AFT/AFL-CIO; a representative of an alumni
31 association of a four-year public institution of higher education; an
32 admissions officer at a four-year public institution of higher
33 education; a student currently enrolled in a four-year public
34 institution of higher education; and a graduate of a four-year public
35 institution of higher education.

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37 2. Appointments to the task force shall be made within 30 days
38 of the effective date of this act. Vacancies in the membership of the
39 task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original
40 appointments were made. Members of the task force shall serve
41 without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary
42 expenditures incurred in the performance of their duties as members
43 of the task force within the limits of funds appropriated or
44 otherwise made available to the task force for its purposes.

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46 3. The task force shall organize not later than 30 days
47 following the appointment of its members. The task force shall

1 choose a chairperson from among its members and shall appoint a
2 secretary who need not be a member of the task force.

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4 4. The Office of the Secretary of Higher Education shall
5 provide such stenographic, clerical, and other administrative
6 assistants, and such professional staff as the task force requires to
7 carry out its work. The task force also shall be entitled to call to its
8 assistance and avail itself of the services of the employees of any
9 State, county, or municipal department, board, bureau, commission,
10 or agency as it may require and as may be available for its purposes.

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12 5. It shall be the duty of the task force to examine issues
13 related to the practice of four-year public institutions of higher
14 education providing admission preference to family members of
15 alumni of the institution. The task force shall study and consider
16 issues including, but not limited to, the following:

17 a. the current policy of each four-year public institution of
18 higher education in regard to the admission of family members of
19 alumni of the institution, including whether the institution provides
20 an admission preference;

21 b. an evaluation of the fairness and equity of an institution's
22 policy on providing preference for admission to family members of
23 alumni and whether the preference is provided to the families of all
24 alumni or only certain alumni;

25 c. an evaluation of the impact of the alumni family member
26 preference policy on the admission of other students, particularly
27 students who may be more academically qualified; and

28 d. an examination of whether four-year public institutions of
29 higher education in other states have implemented alumni family
30 member preference policies and the nature and effect of those
31 policies.

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33 6. a. The task force shall issue a final report of its findings
34 and recommendations to the Governor, and to the Legislature
35 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), no later
36 than one year after the task force organizes.

37 b. The task force shall expire 30 days after the issuance of its
38 final report.

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40 7. This act shall take effect immediately.

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43 STATEMENT

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45 This bill establishes the Task Force on Legacy Student
46 Preference in College Admissions. Under the bill, the task force
47 will consist of 13 members including: the Secretary of Higher
48 Education; one public member appointed by the President of the

1 Senate and one public member appointed by the Minority Leader of
2 the Senate; one public member appointed by the Speaker of the
3 General Assembly and one public member appointed by the
4 Minority Leader of the General Assembly; and eight members
5 appointed by the Governor, including: the president of a public
6 research university; the president of a State college or university; a
7 representative of the American Association of University
8 Professors; a representative of the Council of State College Locals
9 AFT/AFL-CIO; a representative of an alumni association of a four-
10 year public institution of higher education; an admissions officer at
11 a four-year public institution of higher education; a student
12 currently enrolled in a four-year public institution of higher
13 education; and a graduate of a four-year public institution of higher
14 education.

15 The task force will study issues including, but not limited to:

- 16 • the current policy of each four-year public institution of
17 higher education in regard to the admission of family
18 members of alumni of the institution, including whether the
19 institution provides an admission preference;
- 20 • an evaluation of the fairness and equity of an institution's
21 policy on providing preference for admission to family
22 members of alumni and whether the preference is provided
23 to the families of all alumni or only certain alumni;
- 24 • an evaluation of the impact of the alumni family member
25 preference policy on the admission of other students,
26 particularly students who may be more academically
27 qualified; and
- 28 • an examination of whether four-year public institutions of
29 higher education in other states have implemented alumni
30 family member preference policies and the nature and effect
31 of those policies.

32 The bill directs the task force to issue a final report of its
33 findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature
34 no later than one year after its organizational meeting. The task
35 force will expire 30 days after the submission of its final report.