

ASSEMBLY, No. 876

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman THOMAS P. GIBLIN

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

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District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

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Co-Sponsored by:

**Assemblymen McKeon, Coughlin, Assemblywoman Mosquera and
Assemblyman DeAngelo**

SYNOPSIS

Directs Secretary of Higher Education to study prevalence, cost, and quality of certain on-line courses compared to traditional classroom courses offered by institutions of higher education.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT concerning on-line courses offered by institutions of higher
2 education and supplementing chapter 3B of Title 18A of the New
3 Jersey Statutes.

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

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8 1. The Secretary of Higher Education shall conduct a study to
9 examine the prevalence, cost, and quality of on-line courses offered
10 for credit by institutions of higher education upon payment of a fee.
11 The study shall only pertain to these types of on-line courses and
12 shall include, but need not be limited to:

13 a. a list of the specific on-line courses made available by each
14 institution of higher education;

15 b. the cost of offering an on-line course at the institution
16 compared to the cost of a traditional, classroom-based course at the
17 institution;

18 c. the overall number and percentage of part-time and full-time
19 students who enroll in at least one on-line course at each institution
20 of higher education;

21 d. the total amount of savings generated from offering on-line
22 courses compared to classroom-based courses realized by each
23 institution of higher education in an academic year;

24 e. whether the quantified savings identified pursuant to
25 subsection d. of this section are used by the institution to benefit the
26 students enrolled in the institution and, if so, the manner in which
27 those savings are used to reduce student costs;

28 f. the average completion rate and average grade for the
29 students enrolled in each on-line course offered by each institution;

30 g. the overall four-year and six-year graduation rates for
31 students who enroll in at least one on-line course at each institution
32 of higher education compared to the average four-year and six-year
33 graduation rates for students who do not enroll in an on-line course
34 at the institution; and

35 h. an assessment of the policies and procedures each institution
36 of higher education has in place to ensure that institutional support,
37 technological support, and faculty support are provided to students
38 enrolled in on-line courses to ensure a high quality educational
39 experience.

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41 2. Within 180 days of the effective date of this act, the
42 secretary shall prepare and submit a report of the study's findings to
43 the Senate Higher Education Committee and the Assembly Higher
44 Education Committee, or their successor committees.

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46 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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3 This bill directs the Secretary of Higher Education to conduct a
4 study to examine the prevalence, cost, and quality of on-line
5 courses offered for credit by institutions of higher education upon
6 payment of a fee. Under the bill, the study would only pertain to
7 such on-line courses and must include:

- 8 • a list of the specific on-line courses made available by each
9 institution;
- 10 • the cost of offering an on-line course at the institution
11 compared to the cost of a traditional, classroom-based course
12 at the institution;
- 13 • the overall number and percentage of part-time and full-time
14 students who enroll in at least one on-line course at each
15 institution;
- 16 • the total amount of savings generated from offering on-line
17 courses compared to classroom-based courses realized by
18 each institution in an academic year;
- 19 • whether the quantified savings are used by the institution to
20 benefit the students enrolled in the institution and, if so, the
21 manner in which those savings are used to reduce student
22 costs;
- 23 • the average completion rate and average grade for the
24 students enrolled in each on-line course offered by each
25 institution;
- 26 • the overall four-year and six-year graduation rates for
27 students who enroll in at least one on-line course at each
28 institution of higher education compared to the average four-
29 year and six-year graduation rates for students who do not
30 enroll in an on-line course at the institution; and
- 31 • an assessment of the policies and procedures each institution
32 of higher education has in place to ensure that institutional
33 support, technological support, and faculty support are
34 provided to students enrolled in on-line courses to ensure a
35 high quality educational experience.

36 The bill requires the secretary to prepare and submit a report of
37 the study's findings to the Senate Higher Education Committee and
38 the Assembly Higher Education Committee within 180 days of its
39 effective date.