

ASSEMBLY, No. 896

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)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblyman JOE DANIELSEN

District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Coughlin

SYNOPSIS

Requires county colleges to develop plan to achieve three-year graduation rate of at least 33 percent for full-time degree-program students by 2021-2022 academic year.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** concerning the graduation rates of county colleges and
2 supplementing chapter 64A of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 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. a. The board of trustees of a county college, in consultation
9 with the New Jersey Council of County Colleges, shall develop a
10 plan to achieve a three-year graduation rate of at least 33 percent
11 for full-time students enrolled in an associate degree program
12 regularly requiring four semesters to complete, by the 2021-2022
13 academic year.

14 In developing the plan, the board shall factor into the graduation
15 rate the number of students who transfer to a four-year institution of
16 higher education prior to graduation from the county college.

17 b. The board of trustees shall establish a study committee to
18 advise and make recommendations to the board on the plan to
19 achieve a three-year graduation rate of at least 33 percent required
20 pursuant to subsection a. of this section. The committee shall
21 consist of three members of the board of trustees, one faculty
22 member selected in consultation with the majority representative of
23 the faculty union, and one student.

24 c. The board shall review the recommendations made by the
25 committee and submit the plan by January 1, 2021 to the Secretary
26 of Higher Education for approval. The board shall not submit the
27 plan prior to its review of the committee's recommendations. In the
28 event that the secretary:

29 (1) approves the plan, the board shall transmit a copy of the
30 approved plan to the New Jersey Presidents' Council, the Senate
31 Higher Education Committee, and the Assembly Higher Education
32 Committee, or their successor committees; or

33 (2) does not approve the plan, the secretary shall provide to the
34 board, in writing, the reasons for the disapproval of the plan. Upon
35 receiving the secretary's reasons for disapproving the plan, the
36 board shall develop a new plan, in consultation with the council,
37 and resubmit the plan to the secretary within 90 days.

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39 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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44 This bill requires each board of trustees of a county college to
45 develop a plan to achieve a three-year graduation rate of at least 33
46 percent for full-time students enrolled in an associate degree
47 program, by the 2021-2022 academic year. In developing the plan,
48 the board will factor into the graduation rate the number of students

1 who transfer to a four-year institution of higher education prior to
2 graduation from the county college. The plan must be developed in
3 consultation with the New Jersey Council of County Colleges and
4 submitted for approval to the Secretary of Higher Education by
5 January 1, 2021.

6 This bill also requires the board of trustees to establish a study
7 committee to advise and make recommendations to the board on the
8 plan to achieve a three-year graduation rate of at least 33 percent.
9 The committee would consist of three members of the board, one
10 faculty member selected in consultation with the majority
11 representative of the faculty union, and one student. The board will
12 not submit the plan prior to its review of the committee's
13 recommendations.

14 Under the bill, if the secretary approves the plan, the board is
15 required to transmit a copy of the approved plan to the New Jersey
16 Presidents' Council, the Senate Higher Education Committee, and
17 the Assembly Higher Education Committee. If the secretary does
18 not approve the plan, the secretary will provide the board, in
19 writing, with the reasons for the disapproval. Upon receiving the
20 secretary's reason for disapproving the plan, the board is required to
21 develop a new plan, in consultation with the New Jersey Council of
22 County Colleges, and resubmit the plan to the secretary within 90
23 days.