

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
**ASSEMBLY, No. 4409**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**219th LEGISLATURE**

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ADOPTED OCTOBER 8, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY**

**District 27 (Essex and Morris)**

**Assemblywoman JOANN DOWNEY**

**District 11 (Monmouth)**

**Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON**

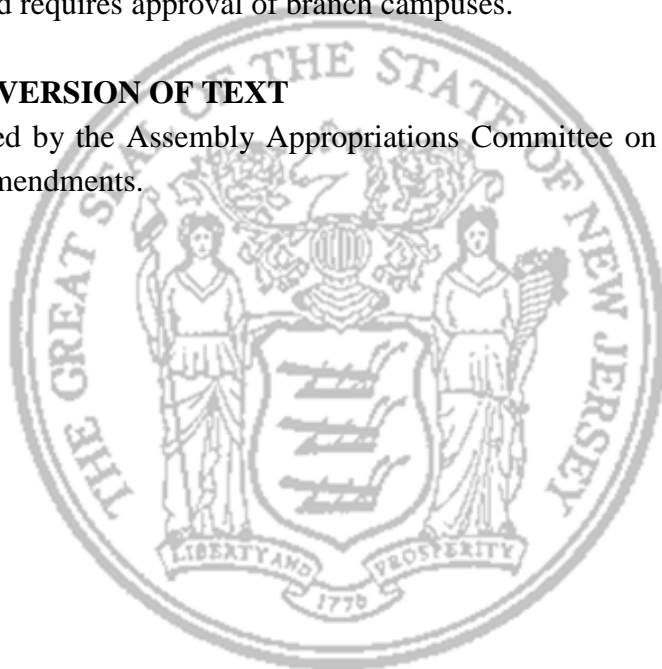
**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes requirements for closures of private career schools and institutions of higher education, modifies review process of new academic programs, and requires approval of branch campuses.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Assembly Appropriations Committee on November 12, 2020, with amendments.



1 AN ACT concerning postsecondary education, amending various  
2 parts of the statutory law, and supplementing Title 18A of the  
3 New Jersey Statutes and P.L.1989, c.293 (C.34:15C-1 et seq.).  
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:  
7

8 1. Section 8 of P.L.1994, c.48 (C.18A:3B-8) is amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 8. The council shall have the responsibility, consistent with  
11 State and federal law, to:

12 a. provide public information and research on higher education  
13 issues;

14 b. review and make recommendations to the **[commission]**  
15 Secretary of Higher Education concerning proposals for new  
16 programs that exceed the programmatic mission of an institution or  
17 that change the programmatic mission of an institution;

18 c. review **[and comment on]** proposals for new programs that  
19 **[demand significant added resources or raise significant issues of**  
20 **duplication but]** do not exceed the programmatic mission of the  
21 institution or require a change in the programmatic mission,  
22 according to standards established by the secretary through  
23 regulations promulgated pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure  
24 Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), for the following:

25 (1) sufficient academic quality;

26 (2) sufficient evidence of labor market demand for the program;

27 (3) duplication with comparable programs of study in the State;

28 and

29 (4) whether the proposed new program will require significant  
30 additional State resources.

31 If the council determines according to the review standards set by  
32 the secretary that a proposed new program **[is]** may be of  
33 insufficient academic quality, may lack sufficient evidence of labor  
34 market demand, may be duplicative of comparable programs of  
35 study, or may be unduly expensive **[or unduly duplicative]** to the  
36 State, the council shall refer that proposal to the **[commission]**  
37 secretary for review**[;** however, unless the commission disapproves  
38 of that program within 60 days of its referral, the program shall be  
39 deemed approved**]** pursuant to subsection f. of section 14 of  
40 P.L.1994, c.48 (C.18A:3B-14);

41 d. encourage the formation of regional or other alliances among  
42 institutions including interinstitutional transfers, program  
43 articulation, cooperative programs and shared resources and  
44 develop criteria for "full faith and credit" transfer agreements

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

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted November 12, 2020.

- 1 between county colleges and other institutions of higher education.  
2 The council shall also keep institutions apprised of the  
3 discontinuance of programs at other institutions and each president  
4 shall notify the council of any such action;
- 5 e. advise and assist the **[commission]** secretary in developing  
6 and updating a plan for higher education in the State including, but  
7 not limited to, the establishment of new institutions, closure of  
8 existing institutions and consolidation of institutions;
- 9 f. provide policy recommendations on Statewide higher  
10 education issues;
- 11 g. recommend to the Governor, Legislature and **[commission]**  
12 secretary on policy and overall levels of funding for student aid  
13 programs necessary to ensure accessibility to higher education;
- 14 h. transmit to the Governor, Legislature and **[commission]**  
15 secretary a general budget policy statement regarding overall State  
16 funding levels;
- 17 i. upon referral from the **[commission]** secretary pursuant to  
18 this act provide recommendations concerning institutional licensure  
19 and university status;
- 20 j. appoint subcommittees consisting of the presidents of the  
21 institutions of the various higher education sectors to decide  
22 matters, within the authority of the council. The presidents of the  
23 independent institutions shall develop a unified request for State  
24 support under chapter 72B of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.  
25 The presidents of the county college sector shall develop a unified  
26 request for State support under chapter 64A of Title 18A of the New  
27 Jersey Statutes; and
- 28 k. consult with the Higher Education Student Assistance  
29 Authority concerning student assistance matters.  
30 (cf: P.L.1999, c.46, s.29)

31  
32 2. Section 14 of P.L.1994, c.48 (C.18A:3B-14) is amended to  
33 read as follows:

- 34 14. The Secretary of Higher Education shall be responsible for:
- 35 a. Statewide planning for higher education including research  
36 on higher education issues and the development of a comprehensive  
37 master plan, including, but not limited to, the establishment of new  
38 institutions, closure of existing institutions, and consolidation of  
39 institutions, which plan shall be long-range in nature. Within 180  
40 days of the effective date of P.L.2015, c.91 and, at a minimum,  
41 every seven years thereafter, the secretary shall adopt a new  
42 comprehensive master plan. The council may request the secretary  
43 to conduct a study of a particular issue. The secretary may require  
44 from institutions of higher education such reports or other  
45 information as may be necessary to enable the secretary to perform  
46 his duties;

1       b. advocacy on behalf of higher education including informing  
2 the public of the needs and accomplishments of higher education in  
3 New Jersey;

4       c. making recommendations to the Governor and Legislature  
5 on higher education initiatives and incentive programs of Statewide  
6 significance;

7       d. final administrative decisions over institutional licensure and  
8 university status giving due consideration to the accreditation status  
9 of the institution. The secretary shall furnish the Presidents' Council  
10 with any pertinent information compiled on behalf of the subject  
11 institution and the council shall then make recommendations to the  
12 secretary concerning the licensure of the institution or university  
13 status within sixty days of receipt of the information;

14       e. adopting a code of ethics applicable to institutions of higher  
15 education;

16       f. final administrative decisions over new academic programs  
17 that go beyond the programmatic mission of the institution and final  
18 administrative decisions over a change in the programmatic mission  
19 of an institution. In addition, within 60 days of referral of a  
20 proposed new program **【determined to be unduly expensive or**  
21 **duplicative】** by the council, the secretary may deny approval of  
22 programs proposed by <sup>1</sup>**【public】** institutions of higher education  
23 which do not exceed the programmatic mission of the institution,  
24 but which **【are】** may be of insufficient academic quality, may lack  
25 sufficient evidence of labor market demand, may be duplicative of  
26 comparable programs of study, or may be unduly expensive to the  
27 State as determined by the New Jersey Presidents' Council **【to be**  
28 unduly duplicative or expensive】 according to the review standards  
29 set by the secretary <sup>1</sup>**【**, and review and comment on proposed new  
30 programs submitted by independent institutions of higher education,  
31 within 60 days of referral by the council】<sup>1</sup>;

32       g. reviewing requests for State support from the institutions in  
33 relation to the mission of the institution and Statewide goals and  
34 proposing a coordinated budget policy statement to the Governor  
35 and Legislature;

36       h. communicating with the State Board of Education and  
37 Commissioner of Education to advance public education at all  
38 levels including articulation between the public schools and higher  
39 education community;

40       i. applying for and accepting grants from the federal  
41 government, or any agency thereof, or grants, gifts or other  
42 contributions from any foundation, corporation, association or  
43 individual, and complying with the terms, conditions and  
44 limitations thereof, for the purpose of advancing higher education.  
45 Any money so received may be expended by the secretary upon  
46 warrant of the director of the Office of Management and Budget in  
47 the Department of the Treasury on vouchers certified by the  
48 secretary;

1 j. acting as the lead agent of communication with the federal  
2 government concerning higher education issues, except that the  
3 Higher Education Student Assistance Authority shall act, in  
4 cooperation with the secretary, as the lead agency on issues of  
5 student assistance;

6 k. exercising all of the powers and duties previously exercised  
7 by the Board of Higher Education, the Department of Higher  
8 Education, and the Chancellor of Higher Education, under the "New  
9 Jersey Higher Education Building Construction Bond Act of 1971,"  
10 P.L.1971, c.164, the "New Jersey Medical Education Facilities  
11 Bond Act of 1977," P.L.1977, c.235, the "Jobs, Science and  
12 Technology Bond Act of 1984," P.L.1984, c.99, the "Jobs,  
13 Education and Competitiveness Bond Act of 1988," P.L.1988, c.78,  
14 the "Higher Education Equipment Leasing Fund Act," P.L.1993,  
15 c.136, and the "Higher Education Facilities Trust Fund Act,"  
16 P.L.1993, c.375;

17 l. exercising any other power or responsibility necessary in  
18 order to carry out the provisions of this act;

19 m. consulting with the Higher Education Student Assistance  
20 Authority on student assistance matters;

21 n. advising and making recommendations for consideration to  
22 the Governor and the governing board of a public research  
23 university or a State college for members of that governing board  
24 appointed by the Governor; and

25 o. examining and recommending to institutions of higher  
26 education opportunities for joint purchasing and other joint  
27 arrangements that would be advantageous to the institutions.

28 (cf: P.L.2015, c.91, s.1)

29  
30 3. Section 15 of P.L.1994, c.48 (C.18A:3B-15) is amended to  
31 read as follows:

32 15. The **【commission】** secretary shall adopt rules and  
33 regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"  
34 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), necessary to carry out the  
35 provisions of this act. **【Regulations adopted by the State Board of**  
36 **Higher Education pertaining to:**

37 a. licensing of institutions and university status;

38 b. outside employment for employees of public institutions and  
39 State agencies and Code of Ethics;

40 c. residency requirements for tuition purposes;

41 d. personnel policies which affect the terms and conditions of  
42 employment including classification and compensation plans  
43 adopted pursuant thereto;

44 e. tenure and multi-year contracts;

45 f. rights and procedures in a reduction in force;

46 g. student trustee policies; and

47 h. regulations concerning early retirement programs and length  
48 of the academic year shall continue with full force and effect under

1 the authority of the commission for a period of one year from the  
2 effective date of this act or until amended, continued or repealed by  
3 the commission pursuant to law.】

4 (cf: P.L.1994, c.48, s.15)

5  
6 4. Section 20 of P.L.2009, c.308 (C.18A:3B-65) is amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 20. a. Subject to the approval of the Secretary of Higher  
9 Education, the governing board of a public research university or a  
10 State college may establish a branch campus. The governing board  
11 shall submit the plan for the branch campus to the secretary for  
12 review and approval. The plan shall be developed and reviewed  
13 according to standards established by the secretary through  
14 regulations promulgated pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure  
15 Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.).

16 b. When the governing board 【of a public research university or  
17 a State college】, after study and investigation, determines that it is  
18 advisable for the institution to establish a branch campus or  
19 additional location out-of-State or out-of-country that will serve at  
20 least 【500】 100 students of the institution, the board shall 【submit】  
21 include in the plan for the branch campus or additional location  
22 submitted to the 【commission】 secretary 【for its review and  
23 recommendations. The plan shall include】:

24 (1) a description of the higher educational needs of the country  
25 or region in which the branch campus or additional location shall be  
26 located;

27 (2) a description of the proposed branch campus or additional  
28 location and its proposed programs and curriculum; 【and】

29 (3) an estimate of the cost of establishing and maintaining the  
30 branch campus or additional location including the cost of any  
31 planned acquisition or construction of facilities;

32 (4) a commitment that the branch campus or additional location  
33 will comply with the provisions of P.L.1963, c.73 (C.47:1A-1 et  
34 seq.), commonly known as the open public records act; and

35 (5) any other information or data deemed necessary by the  
36 【commission】 secretary.

37 【b.】 c. In developing 【its】 a response to the plan, the  
38 【commission】 secretary shall consider whether there is a need for  
39 the institution to acquire a branch campus or additional location and  
40 whether the institution has the financial capacity to support the  
41 campus or additional location.

42 d. The secretary may approve the establishment of an out-of-  
43 State or out-of-country branch campus or additional location if the  
44 secretary determines that the branch campus or additional location:

45 (1) serves a compelling State interest;

46 (2) does not impose excessive costs or reputational risk to the  
47 State;

1     (3) does not impose a risk to the security interests of the State or  
2     federal government; and

3     (4) does not conflict with existing State or federal laws or  
4     regulations.

5     In making the determination, the secretary may utilize the  
6     assistance of an external consultant team, solicit comments from  
7     interested parties including faculty and members of professional  
8     staff not holding faculty rank at the public research university or  
9     State college, and conduct a site visit at the proposed site of the  
10    branch campus or additional location.

11    e. The governing board of a public research university or a State  
12    college shall fix the salary of all faculty and members of the  
13    professional staff not holding faculty rank performing services at  
14    '[a] an out-of-State or out-of-country' branch campus or additional  
15    location, and the faculty and members shall be paid and provided  
16    benefits in the same manner as all other employees of the public  
17    research university or State college performing services on behalf  
18    of the public research university or State college within the State.

19    f. The cost for consultants utilized by the secretary and other  
20    out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the secretary for branch campus  
21    and related reviews shall be paid by the institution seeking to  
22    establish a branch campus or additional location.

23    g. The secretary shall adopt rules and regulations, pursuant to  
24    the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et  
25    seq.), necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

26    h. 'When the governing board of an independent institution of  
27    higher education, after study and investigation, determines that it is  
28    advisable for the institution to establish a branch campus or  
29    additional location in the State that will serve at least 100 students  
30    of the institution, the board shall submit the plan for the branch  
31    campus or additional location to the secretary for review and  
32    comment. The plan shall be developed and reviewed according to  
33    standards established by the secretary through rules and regulations  
34    promulgated pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"  
35    P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.).

36    i. <sup>1</sup> As used in this section:

37    "Additional location" means a location, other than a branch  
38    campus, that is geographically apart from the main campus and at  
39    which the institution offers at least 50 percent of an educational  
40    program.

41    "Branch campus" means a physical facility located at a place  
42    other than the institution's principal campus offering one or more  
43    complete programs leading to a degree.

44    (cf: P.L.2009, c.308, s.20)

45  
46    5. N.J.S.18A:68-3 is amended to read as follows:

47    18A:68-3. a. No corporation shall furnish instruction or  
48    learning in the arts, sciences, or professions for the purposes of

1 admitting any person to the grade of a degree, or shall confer or  
2 participate in conferring a degree, giving to any person a diploma of  
3 graduation or of proficiency in a course of study, in learning, or in  
4 scientific arts or methods, within this State, until it shall have filed  
5 a certified copy of its certificate of incorporation with the  
6 **【Commission on】 Secretary of Higher Education** and obtained from  
7 the **【commission】 secretary** a license to carry on the business under  
8 such rules as the **【commission】 secretary** may prescribe.

9 b. The secretary shall prepare a fee schedule to cover the  
10 reasonable administrative costs associated with licensing  
11 procedures and submit the initial fee schedule to the Legislature for  
12 review. The secretary shall subsequently adopt, pursuant to the  
13 “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et  
14 seq.), the fee schedule. Fees collected shall be deposited in the  
15 State Treasury.

16 c. The cost for consultants utilized by the **【Commission on】**  
17 **Secretary of** Higher Education and other out-of-pocket expenses  
18 incurred by the **【commission】 secretary** for licensure and related  
19 reviews shall be paid by the institution seeking a license or license  
20 renewal.

21 (cf: P.L.1999, c.46, s.44)

22  
23 6. (New section) As used in sections 6 through 12 of P.L. ,  
24 c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill):

25 “Closure” means the cessation of operations by an institution of  
26 higher education or a proprietary institution licensed to offer  
27 academic degrees.

28 “Secretary” means the Secretary of Higher Education.

29 “Disorderly closure” means a closure that does not meet the  
30 requirements of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as  
31 this bill).

32 "Eligible transfer institution" means an institution of higher  
33 education or a proprietary institution licensed to offer academic  
34 degrees that has been approved by the secretary pursuant to section  
35 10 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

36 "Institutional debt" means:

37 (1) the amount outstanding on any credit, including unpaid  
38 charges, extended by or on behalf of an institution of higher  
39 education or a proprietary institution licensed to offer academic  
40 degrees that a student is obligated to repay, whether the amount has  
41 been reduced to a judgment or the institution classifies it as a loan;  
42 or

43 (2) a nonfederal loan or debt agreement that is issued expressly  
44 for postsecondary education expenses and that is guaranteed by an  
45 institution of higher education or a proprietary institution or a  
46 private educational lender that is affiliated with an institution of  
47 higher education or a proprietary institution.



1 "Institutional financial aid agreement" means any contract,  
2 promissory note, part of an enrollment agreement, or other  
3 agreement in which a student agrees to pay an institutional debt.

4 "Orderly closure" means a closure that meets the requirements of  
5 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

6 "Student" means an individual enrolled at an institution of higher  
7 education or a proprietary institution licensed to offer academic  
8 degrees in New Jersey, or a New Jersey resident enrolled at an  
9 institution of higher education or proprietary institution located  
10 outside of this State.

11 "Teach-out agreement" means a written agreement between  
12 institutions that provides for the equitable treatment of students and  
13 a reasonable opportunity for students to complete their program of  
14 study if an institution, or an institutional location that provides 100  
15 percent of at least one program offered, ceases to operate before all  
16 enrolled students have completed their program of study.

17 "Teach-out plan" means a written plan developed by the  
18 institution that provides for the equitable treatment of students if an  
19 institution, or an institutional location, ceases to operate before all  
20 students have completed their program of study, and may include, if  
21 required by the institution's accrediting agency, a teach-out  
22 agreement between institutions.

23

24 7. (New section) a. An independent institution of higher  
25 education and a proprietary institution licensed to offer academic  
26 degrees shall immediately notify the secretary of any known  
27 financial liabilities or risks that are reasonably likely to result in the  
28 imminent closure of the institution or otherwise negatively affect  
29 the institution's ability to fulfill its obligations to current and  
30 admitted students.

31 b. All independent institutions and proprietary institutions  
32 licensed to offer academic degrees shall submit an annual fiscal  
33 monitoring report to the secretary according to a schedule  
34 established by the secretary and in a format developed by the  
35 secretary.

36 c. The secretary shall establish a process to annually assess each  
37 independent institution's and proprietary institution's financial  
38 information to identify whether an institution is at risk of imminent  
39 closure. The assessment shall be based on a review of information  
40 received through the annual fiscal monitoring report. In addition to  
41 the annual report, the secretary may also conduct additional  
42 assessments at the secretary's discretion to identify whether an  
43 institution is at risk of imminent closure.

44 d. If the secretary determines there is a risk of imminent closure,  
45 the determination and a summary of the basis for the determination  
46 shall be provided to the institution. Upon receipt of the  
47 determination and summary the institution shall immediately:

48 (1) notify the secretary of any known liabilities, risks, or  
49 financial issues;

- 1 (2) provide to the secretary any information necessary to
- 2 accurately and fairly determine the institution's financial status and
- 3 likelihood of imminent closure and to monitor its condition;
- 4 (3) prepare and submit to the secretary a contingency plan for
- 5 closure, which shall include:
- 6 (a) a process to notify relevant stakeholders, as determined by
- 7 the secretary including, but not limited to, enrolled students,
- 8 candidates who have submitted applications, recent graduates,
- 9 faculty, staff, and host communities;
- 10 (b) arrangements for the continued education of currently
- 11 enrolled students via teach-out agreement or other practical
- 12 solution;
- 13 (c) a plan for the transfer to and long-term maintenance of
- 14 records, particularly student academic records, by a third-party if
- 15 the institution closes;
- 16 (d) information about the rights and responsibilities of student
- 17 loan borrowers;
- 18 (e) information about the institution's financial condition,
- 19 accreditation status, and any outstanding compliance issues
- 20 regarding federal and State student aid programs; and
- 21 (f) confirmation that the institution has obtained either a surety
- 22 bond or letter of credit to refund student enrollment deposits and for
- 23 the cost to maintain student records by a third-party.
- 24 e. Upon a finding by the secretary that an institution has failed
- 25 to comply with the requirements of this section, the secretary shall
- 26 have the authority to order:
- 27 (1) a fine not to exceed \$1,000 per day of non-compliance with
- 28 the requirements of this section;
- 29 (2) the suspension of any State funding designated for the
- 30 institution; and
- 31 (3) the suspension or revocation of any degree-granting
- 32 authority previously conferred on the institution.
- 33 f. Any information submitted to, or developed by, the secretary
- 34 in furtherance of this section shall not be a public record and shall
- 35 be exempt from disclosure under provisions of P.L.1963, c.73
- 36 (C.47:1A-1 et seq.), commonly known as the open public records
- 37 act.
- 38
- 39 8. (New section) a. This section shall apply to a proprietary
- 40 institution licensed to offer academic degrees that operates in this
- 41 State.
- 42 b. A proprietary institution licensed to offer academic degrees
- 43 shall provide the secretary a teach-out plan that addresses a
- 44 potential closure of the institution. The teach-out plan shall be
- 45 updated as required by the secretary.
- 46 c. A teach-out plan shall include any information required by
- 47 the secretary and shall state that:
- 48 (1) the institution shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure that
- 49 any closure of the institution complies with the requirements of

1 sections 9 through 12 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
2 Legislature as this bill);

3 (2) the chief executive officer and the members of the governing  
4 body of the institution were not in an executive position or a  
5 member of a governing body of an institution in which a disorderly  
6 closure occurred; and

7 (3) any institutional financial aid agreement offered to a student  
8 shall contain language stating that, in the event of a disorderly  
9 closure, the institutional debt shall be void and shall not be  
10 recovered, collected, or enforced.

11 d. The Office of the Attorney General shall seek an injunction  
12 or other judicial remedy against a proprietary institution licensed to  
13 offer academic degrees that fails to comply with the requirements of  
14 this section, including requiring the institution to refund all tuition  
15 and fees paid by any student.

16

17 9. (New section) a. Sections 9 through 12 of P.L. , c. (C. )  
18 (pending before the Legislature as this bill) shall apply to an  
19 institution of higher education or a proprietary institution licensed  
20 to offer academic degrees that operates in this State.

21 b. An institution of higher education or a proprietary institution  
22 licensed to offer academic degrees shall enter into a school-to-  
23 school teach-out agreement at least 120 days prior to the cessation  
24 of institution operations.

25 c. In order to satisfy the requirements of this section, a school-  
26 to-school teach-out agreement shall:

27 (1) be arranged by the closing institution;

28 (2) be agreed to by an eligible transfer institution, the closing  
29 institution, and the secretary;

30 (3) unless waived for good cause by the secretary, specify that  
31 the eligible transfer institution shall:

32 (a) be located within a reasonable distance of the closing  
33 institution, if the closing institution has a physical presence in the  
34 State;

35 (b) accept the transfer of all completed credits from students  
36 affected by the closure; and

37 (c) allow a student affected by the closure to complete the  
38 student's program with substantially the same number of credit  
39 hours as was required by the closing institution;

40 (4) specify that, on request by a student affected by the closure,  
41 the closing institution shall provide a complete academic record and  
42 an official transcript to the student at no cost to the student; and

43 (5) meet any other standards as deemed appropriate by the  
44 secretary.

45

46 10. (New section) a. The Secretary of Higher Education shall  
47 approve an institution of higher education or a proprietary  
48 institution licensed to offer academic degrees to act as an eligible  
49 transfer institution if the institution:

1 (1) is in good standing with its accreditor and, if applicable, its  
2 licensing body;

3 (2) if applicable, has not been sanctioned by the United States  
4 Department of Education due to having a high cohort loan default  
5 rate;

6 (3) has not been placed on Heightened Cash Monitoring  
7 Payment Method Level 2 by the United States Department of  
8 Education;

9 (4) within the previous five years has not had any judgments  
10 related to a consumer protection law entered against it in favor of a  
11 law enforcement agency; and

12 (5) meets the requirements provided in section 9 of P.L. ,  
13 c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), and any  
14 additional standards provided pursuant to subsection b. of this  
15 section.

16 b. The secretary may establish additional standards on a case-  
17 by-case basis for approving an eligible transfer institution.

18  
19 11. (New section) a. Before any institution of higher education  
20 or proprietary institution licensed to offer academic degrees ceases  
21 educational instruction or administrative operation, the institution  
22 shall file with the eligible transfer institution or a third-party  
23 approved by the secretary copies of all essential records of the  
24 current or former students of the institution. The obligation of an  
25 institution under this section shall not be discharged in bankruptcy.

26 b. If an institution of higher education or a proprietary  
27 institution licensed to offer academic degrees does not file all  
28 essential records in accordance with this section, the Office of the  
29 Attorney General may:

30 (1) require the institution to refund all tuition and fees paid by a  
31 student whose records are not filed in accordance with this section;  
32 and

33 (2) seek an injunction or other judicial remedy against the  
34 institution or school.

35  
36 12. (New section) a. It shall be an unlawful practice and a  
37 violation of P.L.1960, c.39 (C.56:8-1 et seq.) for any institution of  
38 higher education, proprietary institution licensed to offer academic  
39 degrees, person, or entity to collect on a student's institutional debt  
40 if the institutional financial aid agreement does not contain the  
41 language required under paragraph (3) of subsection c. of section 8  
42 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

43 b. It shall be an unlawful practice and a violation of P.L.1960,  
44 c.39 (C.56:8-1 et seq.) for an institution of higher education or  
45 proprietary institution licensed to offer academic degrees to collect  
46 on the institutional debt of a student who attended a program in  
47 which a disorderly closure occurred.

1       13. (New section) The Secretary of Higher Education shall  
2       adopt rules and regulations pursuant to the “Administrative  
3       Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate  
4       the purposes of sections 6 through 12 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending  
5       before the Legislature as this bill).

6  
7       14. (New section) As used in sections 14 through 20 of P.L. ,  
8       c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill):

9       “Closure” means the cessation of operations by a private career  
10      school.

11      “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Labor and  
12      Workforce Development.

13      “Disorderly closure” means a closure that does not meet the  
14      requirements of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as  
15      this bill).

16      “Eligible transfer institution” means a private career school that  
17      has been approved by the commissioner pursuant to section 17 of  
18      P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

19      “Institutional debt” means:

20      (1) the amount outstanding on any credit, including unpaid  
21      charges, extended by or on behalf of a private career school that a  
22      student is obligated to repay, whether the amount has been reduced  
23      to a judgment or the school classifies it as a loan; or

24      (2) a nonfederal loan or debt agreement that is issued expressly  
25      for postsecondary education expenses and that is guaranteed by a  
26      private career school or a private educational lender that is affiliated  
27      with a private career school.

28      “Institutional financial aid agreement” means any contract,  
29      promissory note, part of an enrollment agreement, or other  
30      agreement in which a student agrees to pay an institutional debt.

31      “Orderly closure” means a closure that meets the requirements of  
32      P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

33      “Private career school” means a privately owned and privately  
34      operated postsecondary school, other than an institution of higher  
35      education or proprietary institution licensed to offer academic  
36      degrees, that furnishes or offers to furnish programs, whether or not  
37      requiring a payment of tuition or fee, for the purpose of training,  
38      retraining, or upgrading individuals for gainful employment as  
39      workers in recognized or emerging occupations.

40      “Student” means an individual enrolled at a private career school  
41      in New Jersey, or a New Jersey resident enrolled at a private career  
42      school located outside of this State.

43      “Teach-out agreement” means a written agreement between  
44      schools that provides for the equitable treatment of students and a  
45      reasonable opportunity for students to complete their program of  
46      study if a school, or a school location that provides 100 percent of  
47      at least one program offered, ceases to operate before all enrolled  
48      students have completed their program of study.

1 “Teach-out plan” means a written plan developed by the school  
2 that provides for the equitable treatment of students if a school, or a  
3 school location, ceases to operate before all students have  
4 completed their program of study, and may include, if required by  
5 the school’s accrediting agency, a teach-out agreement between  
6 schools.

7  
8 15. (New section) a. Sections 14 through 20 of P.L. , c. (C. )  
9 (pending before the Legislature as this bill) shall apply to a private  
10 career school that operates in this State.

11 b. A private career school shall provide the commissioner a  
12 teach-out plan that addresses a potential closure of the school. The  
13 teach-out plan shall be updated as required by the commissioner.

14 c. A teach-out plan shall include any information required by  
15 the commissioner and shall state that:

16 (1) the school shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure that  
17 any closure of a school complies with the requirements of P.L. ,  
18 c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill);

19 (2) the chief executive officer and the members of the governing  
20 body of the school were not in an executive position or a member of  
21 a governing body of a school in which a disorderly closure  
22 occurred; and

23 (3) any institutional financial aid agreement offered to a student  
24 shall contain language stating that, in the event of a disorderly  
25 closure, the institutional debt shall be void and shall not be  
26 recovered, collected, or enforced.

27 d. The commissioner shall seek an injunction or other judicial  
28 remedy against a private career school that fails to comply with the  
29 requirements of this section, including requiring the school to  
30 refund all tuition and fees paid by any student.

31  
32 16. (New section) a. A private career school shall enter into a  
33 school-to-school teach-out agreement at least 120 days prior to the  
34 cessation of school operations.

35 b. In order to satisfy the requirements of this section, a school-  
36 to-school teach-out agreement shall:

37 (1) be arranged by the closing private career school;

38 (2) be agreed to by an eligible transfer institution, the closing  
39 private career school, and the commissioner; and

40 (3) unless waived for good cause by the commissioner, specify  
41 that the eligible transfer institution shall:

42 (a) be located within a reasonable distance of the closing school,  
43 if the closing school has a physical presence in the State;

44 (b) accept the transfer of all completed credits from students  
45 affected by the closure; and

46 (c) allow a student affected by the closure to complete the  
47 student's program with substantially the same number of credit  
48 hours as was required by the closing school; and

49 (4) not charge a student tuition or fees in excess of the lesser of:

1 (a) the remaining amount that a student affected by the closure  
2 would have paid to the closing school to complete the program; or

3 (b) the transfer institution's applicable tuition and fees; and

4 (5) specify that, on request by a student affected by the closure,  
5 the closing school shall provide a complete academic record and an  
6 official transcript to the student at no cost to the student.

7  
8 17. (New section) a. The Commissioner of Labor and  
9 Workforce Development shall approve a private career school to act  
10 as an eligible transfer institution if the school:

11 (1) is in good standing with its accreditor and, if applicable, its  
12 licensing body;

13 (2) if applicable, has not been sanctioned by the United States  
14 Department of Education due to having a high cohort loan default  
15 rate;

16 (3) has not been placed on Heightened Cash Monitoring  
17 Payment Method Level 2 by the United States Department of  
18 Education;

19 (4) within the previous five years, has not entered into any  
20 settlement agreements related to a consumer protection law with a  
21 law enforcement agency, or had any judgments related to a  
22 consumer protection law entered against it in favor of a law  
23 enforcement agency; and

24 (5) meets the requirements provided in section 16 of P.L. ,  
25 c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), and any  
26 additional standards provided pursuant to subsection b. of this  
27 section.

28 b. The commissioner may establish additional standards on a  
29 case-by-case basis for approving an eligible transfer institution.

30  
31 18. (New section) a. Before any private career school ceases  
32 operations, the school shall file with the commissioner copies of all  
33 essential records of the current or former students of the school.  
34 The obligation of a school under this section shall not be discharged  
35 in bankruptcy.

36 b. The records shall present, as separate documents:

37 (1) the official academic transcript of each student;

38 (2) any other academic information usually required by private  
39 career schools when considering students for transfer or advanced  
40 study; and

41 (3) if requested by the commissioner, the financial aid and  
42 financial account information of each student.

43 c. The records shall be accompanied by an affidavit as to the  
44 accuracy and completeness of the records on behalf of the school's  
45 board of trustees, bursar, chief administrative officer, chief  
46 executive officer, chief financial officer, or registrar.

47 d. The commissioner shall maintain a permanent file of all  
48 records filed with the commissioner under this section.

1 e. (1) If a student who attended a private career school that  
2 closed in accordance with P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
3 Legislature as this bill) requests a copy of the student's official  
4 academic transcript from the commissioner and the commissioner  
5 determines that the requested transcript is missing, incomplete, or in  
6 a format inaccessible to the student, the commissioner may issue a  
7 replacement transcript for the student based solely on the most  
8 recent information provided by the school that the student attended.

9 (2) A replacement transcript issued in accordance with  
10 paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be signed by a designee of the  
11 commissioner, contain an explanation of the closure of the school,  
12 and contain an explanation of the source of all information  
13 contained in the replacement transcript.

14 f. (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a  
15 replacement transcript issued in accordance with this section shall  
16 be accepted as an official transcript by any private career school  
17 operating in the State.

18 (2) For purposes of student transfer, a private career school may  
19 consider, instead of or in addition to a replacement transcript, an  
20 unofficial transcript or other transcript information provided by the  
21 student that the receiving institution or program deems relevant.

22 g. (1) The commissioner shall adopt regulations necessary to  
23 carry out the provisions of this section, which shall include the  
24 manner and format in which student records are to be filed with the  
25 commissioner, and a description of the circumstances under which a  
26 private career school may cease operation.

27 h. If a private career school does not file all essential records  
28 with the commissioner in accordance with this section, the  
29 commissioner may:

30 (1) require the school to refund all tuition and fees paid by a  
31 student whose records are not filed in accordance with this section;  
32 and

33 (2) seek an injunction or other judicial remedy against the  
34 private career school.

35  
36 19. (New section) a. It shall be an unlawful practice and a  
37 violation of P.L.1960, c.39 (C.56:8-1 et seq.) for any private career  
38 school, person, or entity to collect on a student's institutional debt  
39 if the institutional financial aid agreement does not contain the  
40 language required under paragraph (3) of subsection c. of section 15  
41 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

42 b. It shall be an unlawful practice and a violation of P.L.1960,  
43 c.39 (C.56:8-1 et seq.) for a private career school to collect on the  
44 institutional debt of a student who attended a program in which a  
45 disorderly closure occurred.

46  
47 20. (New section) The Commissioner of Labor and Workforce  
48 Development, in consultation with the Commissioner of Education,  
49 shall adopt rules and regulations pursuant to the "Administrative



1 Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate  
2 the purposes of sections 14 through 19 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending  
3 before the Legislature as this bill).  
4

5 21. This act shall take effect on <sup>1</sup>the 120th day next following  
6 enactment<sup>1</sup> September 1, 2021.