

ASSEMBLY, No. 4499

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED AUGUST 10, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Provides that State operating aid for public or independent institution of higher education may be reduced under certain circumstances related to virtual or remote instruction and tuition and fees in 2020-2021 academic year.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** concerning reductions in State operating aid for certain
2 institutions of higher education in the 2020-2021 academic year.

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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. Notwithstanding any law, rule, or regulation to the contrary,
8 for the 2020-2021 academic year, a public institution of higher
9 education or independent institution of higher education shall
10 receive a reduction in its State operating aid if the institution
11 provides the majority of its classes through virtual or remote
12 instruction and does not decrease the tuition and fee amounts
13 charged by the institution compared to those charged in the 2019-
14 2020 academic year. The Secretary of Higher Education shall
15 determine the methodology and manner for a reduction in State
16 operating aid pursuant to this section.

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18 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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21 STATEMENT

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23 On June 18, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order No. 155,
24 which permitted institutions of higher education to resume limited
25 in-person instruction beginning July 2020. Since March 18, 2020,
26 institutions of higher education had been closed for in-person
27 instruction in order to limit individual exposure to COVID-19.
28 While many colleges and universities announced that they were
29 primarily offering virtual or remote classes in order to limit the
30 transmission of COVID-19, several colleges did not concomitantly
31 decrease their tuition and fee rates to reflect the different online
32 learning experience most students will face in the 2020-2021
33 academic year. The decision not to reduce these charges comes at a
34 time when many students and their families are facing difficult
35 economic challenges.

36 This bill provides that a public research university, State college
37 or university, county college, or independent institution of higher
38 education will receive a reduction in its State operating aid for the
39 2020-2021 academic year if: 1) the institution provides the majority
40 of its classes through virtual or remote instruction; and 2) the
41 institution does not decrease the tuition and fee amounts it charges
42 to students compared to those charged in the 2019-2020 academic
43 year. Under the bill, the Secretary of Higher Education has the
44 authority to determine the methodology and manner in which a
45 public or independent institution of higher education will receive
46 the reduction in State operating aid support.