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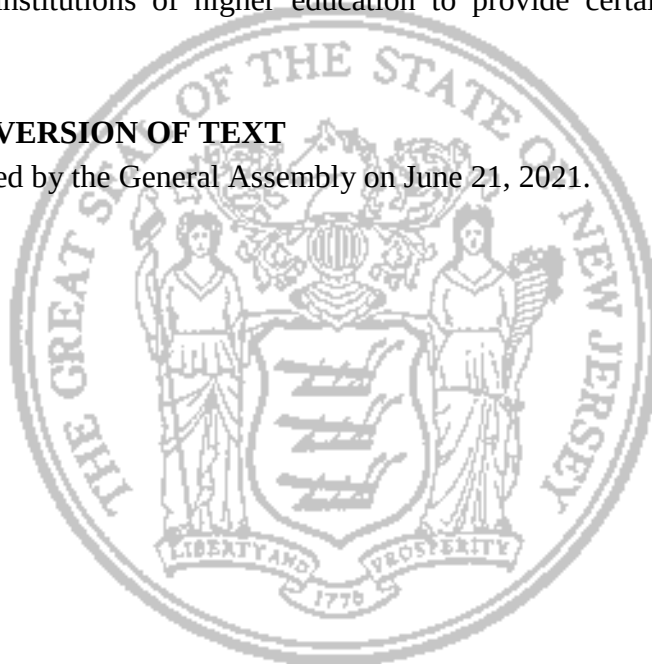
**Assemblywoman Chaparro, Assemblyman Benson, Assemblywoman
Timberlake, Assemblymen Spearman, Conaway, Zwicker,
Assemblywomen McKnight and Lopez**

SYNOPSIS

Requires institutions of higher education to provide certain student loan information.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended by the General Assembly on June 21, 2021.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/6/2021)

1 **AN ACT** concerning information provided by institutions of higher
 2 education and supplementing and amending P.L.2009, c.197.

3
 4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
 5 *of New Jersey:*

6
 7 1. (New section) The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. According to the Institute for College Access & Success,
 9 New Jersey ranks in the top five states nationally for student loan
 10 debt amounts, with the average graduate leaving college
 11 approximately \$34,000 in debt;

12 b. Despite New Jersey students graduating with significant
 13 debt, there is insufficient publicly-available demographic
 14 information on the State's over one million student loan borrowers;

15 c. The demographic information that is available, however,
 16 shows significant racial disparities in student loan outcomes.
 17 Borrowers in New Jersey's communities of color face default rates
 18 two- to -five times higher than white borrowers in the State;

19 d. Even after factoring in financial aid, the average price of
 20 attendance at New Jersey's four-year public institutions of higher
 21 education represents about one-third of household income for the
 22 State's Black and Latino families, compared to just 17 percent of
 23 the State's white families;

24 e. Stark differences in family wealth in New Jersey have
 25 resulted in enormous disparities for students based on race and
 26 ethnicity relating to their financial need for college and their ability
 27 to pay off student loans;

28 f. The development and implementation of informed policy to
 29 understand and address issues related to student loan debt, including
 30 related racial disparities in outcomes, requires access to reliable
 31 State-level data on how borrowers experience their debt burden; and

32 g. Expanding data collection and dissemination of information
 33 is crucial for understanding the extent of the burgeoning student
 34 debt crisis in particular communities in the State and for developing
 35 policies that prioritize equity in loan outcomes for borrowers.

36
 37 2. Section 2 of P.L.2009, c.197 (C.18A:3B-44) is amended to
 38 read as follows:

39 2. a. **[A four-year public]** An institution of higher education
 40 shall provide for public inspection on its website comprehensive
 41 information on the cost of attendance, the graduation rates of
 42 admitted students, and the faculty of the institution. The purpose of
 43 the information shall be to maximize the awareness of students and
 44 their families of the costs associated with enrollment in the
 45 institution, the institution's success in ensuring the graduation of its

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:

¹Assembly floor amendments adopted June 21, 2021.

1 students, and the composition of the teaching faculty that a student
2 will encounter in his coursework. The institution shall post, and
3 annually update, a student consumer information report on its
4 website that includes, if applicable:

5 (1) '[overall two-year and three-year graduation rates, and]'
6 overall 'three-year,' four-year ' ,' and six-year graduation rates, as
7 applicable;

8 (2) '[two-year and]' three-year '[graduation rates by
9 demographic group]' , '[and]' four-year ' ,' and six-year
10 graduation rates by demographic group, as applicable;

11 (3) '[two-year and]' three-year '[graduation rates by major]' ,
12 '[and]' four-year ' ,' and six-year graduation rates by major, as
13 applicable;

14 (4) '[two-year and]' three-year '[graduation rates for student-
15 athletes]' , '[and]' four-year ' ,' and six-year graduation rates for
16 student-athletes, as applicable;

17 (5) the student transfer rate;

18 (6) an overview of the institutions to which former students of
19 that college or university have transferred prior to the completion of
20 a degree;

21 (7) the cost for the current academic year of attending the
22 institution including tuition, student fees, room and board, and
23 books and materials;

24 (8) a description of the types of financial assistance offered
25 directly by the institution to both student-athletes and to students
26 who do not participate in athletic programs at the institution;

27 (9) the percent of student-athletes who receive financial
28 assistance directly from the institution and the average value of the
29 assistance and the percent of students who do not participate in
30 athletic programs at the institution who receive financial assistance
31 directly from the institution and the average value of the assistance;

32 (10) for four-year institutions of higher education, the total
33 projected cost for an incoming freshman to live on campus and
34 complete a degree in four years and the total projected cost for an
35 incoming freshman to commute to school and complete a degree in
36 four years;

37 (11) for four-year institutions of higher education, the total
38 projected cost for an incoming freshman to live on campus and
39 complete a degree in six years and the total projected cost for an
40 incoming freshman to commute to school and complete a degree in
41 six years;

42 (12) average student loan indebtedness of two-year and four-
43 year graduates for both students who live on campus and students
44 who commute, as applicable. The institution shall disaggregate the
45 data by: race, ethnicity, age, '[income] family income at the time of
46 admission' , gender, and first-generation status;

- 1 (13) average student loan indebtedness of three-year and six-
2 year graduates for both students who live on campus and students
3 who commute, as applicable. The institution shall disaggregate the
4 data by: race, ethnicity, age, '【income】 family income at the time of
5 admission¹, gender, and first-generation status;
- 6 (14) average student loan indebtedness of a student who
7 transfers or withdraws from the institution prior to the completion
8 of a degree program for both students who live on campus and who
9 commute. The institution shall disaggregate the data by: race,
10 ethnicity, age, '【income】 family income at the time of admission¹,
11 gender, and first-generation status;
- 12 (15) an overview of the institution's faculty, including the
13 percentage of faculty employed as a tenured professor, the
14 percentage of faculty employed as a full-time non-tenured
15 professor, and the percentage of faculty employed as an adjunct or
16 visiting professor;
- 17 (16) the percentage of courses taught by each of the different
18 categories of faculty; **【and】**
- 19 (17) an indicator of each academic department's capacity to
20 serve the students majoring within that department's programs, as
21 determined by the **【Commission on】 Secretary of** Higher
22 Education; ¹and¹
- 23 (18) the number and percentage of borrowers '【of the New
24 Jersey College Loans to Assist State Students (NJCLASS) Program
25 and the number and percentage of students with other forms of
26 student loans; and
- 27 (19) for each three-year cohort of students who have graduated,
28 transferred, or withdrawn from the institution prior to graduation,
29 beginning with the first cohort following the enactment of P.L. c.
30 (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) and for each
31 three-year cohort thereafter, the default rate of the borrowers, the
32 number and percentage of NJCLASS borrowers in repayment, and
33 the number and percentage of NJCLASS borrowers in default,】 for
34 whom the institution has certified a supplemental student loan,¹
35 disaggregated by '【the】¹ race, ethnicity, age, '【income】 family
36 income at the time of admission¹, gender, and first-generation status.
- 37 The institution shall provide with all paper applications for
38 admission to the institution a hard copy of the information prepared
39 pursuant to this section.
- 40 b. **【A four-year public】** An institution of higher education shall
41 conform to the guidelines, criteria, and format prescribed by the
42 **【Commission on】 Secretary of** Higher Education in reporting the
43 information required pursuant to this section.
- 44 c. **【A four-year public】** An institution of higher education shall
45 submit its student consumer information report to the **【Commission**
46 **on】 Secretary of** Higher Education for inclusion in a comparative

1 profile of the student consumer information reports of all **four-year**
2 **public** institutions of higher education.

3 In addition to the information contained in the institutional
4 student consumer information reports pursuant to this section, the
5 comparative profile shall identify the existence of any racial
6 disparities in student loan indebtedness and loan default rates.

7 d. **A four-year public** An institution of higher education shall
8 ensure that the page of its Internet site which includes its student
9 consumer information report contains a link to the page of the
10 **Commission on** Secretary of Higher Education's Internet site that
11 includes the comparative profile required pursuant to subsection b.
12 of section 3 of this act.

13 e. **A four-year public** An institution of higher education shall
14 ensure that the Internet site for submitting an online application to
15 the institution contains a link to the institution's student consumer
16 information report.

17 f. **A four-year public** An institution of higher education shall
18 require the parent or guardian of a student applying for admission
19 into the institution, or the student if he is an independent adult, to
20 sign and submit a statement acknowledging that he has reviewed the
21 institution's student consumer information report.

22 (cf: P.L.2009, c.197, s.2)

23

24 3. Section 3 of P.L.2009, c.197 (C.18A:3B-45) is amended to
25 read as follows:

26 3. a. The **Commission on** Secretary of Higher Education shall
27 issue guidelines and criteria for collecting and calculating the
28 information required pursuant to section 2 of this act and shall
29 prescribe a uniform reporting method for posting the information.

30 b. The **Commission on** Secretary of Higher Education shall
31 annually compile the student consumer information reports
32 submitted pursuant to subsection c. of section 2 of this act into a
33 comparative profile of all four-year public institutions of higher
34 education. The **commission** secretary shall present the
35 information on its website in a manner that allows college students
36 and their families to easily compare student consumer information
37 across institutions.

38 (cf: P.L.2009, c.197, s.3)

39

40 4. This act shall take effect in the first full academic year
41 following the date of enactment.