

ASSEMBLY, No. 5481

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 17, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman GERARD SCHARFENBERGER

District 13 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Commission on Administrative Costs of Public Institutions of Higher Education.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT establishing a commission to study the administrative costs
2 of public institutions of higher education and supplementing
3 chapter 3B of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

7
8 1. a. There is established a Commission on the Administrative
9 Costs of Public Institutions of Higher Education within the Office
10 of the Secretary of Higher Education. The purpose of the
11 commission shall be to examine administrative costs at each public
12 institution of higher education in the State and recommend ways in
13 which those costs may be reduced or eliminated.

14 b. The commission shall consist of nine members appointed by
15 the Secretary of Higher Education as follows:

- 16 (1) the president of a public research university, or a designee;
17 (2) the president of a State college or university established
18 pursuant to chapter 64 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes, or a
19 designee;
20 (3) the president of a county college, or a designee;
21 (4) three administrators exercising supervisory control over a
22 public institution of higher education as a whole; and
23 (5) three current chairpersons of an academic department at a
24 public institution of higher education.

25 Members shall serve for a term of four years except that the
26 initial appointments for three of the members shall be for a term of
27 one year, three for a term of two years, and three for a term of three
28 years. Members shall be chosen to ensure broad geographic
29 diversity and shall be eligible for reappointment for additional
30 terms.

31 c. A vacancy occurring among members shall be filled in the
32 same manner as the original appointment was made. Vacancies
33 occurring other than by expiration of a term shall be filled for the
34 remainder of the unexpired term.

35 d. Members of the commission shall serve without
36 compensation but shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses
37 necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties within the
38 limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the
39 commission for its purposes.

40
41 2. The commission shall organize as soon as practicable after
42 the appointment of a majority of its members, but no later than 60
43 days after the effective date of this act. The commission shall
44 choose a chairperson from among its members and shall appoint a
45 secretary who need not be a member of the commission. The
46 commission shall, at minimum, meet on a monthly basis and at such
47 other times as designated by the chairperson.

1 The commission would be composed of nine members: the
2 president of a public research university, the president of a State
3 college or university established pursuant to chapter 64 of Title 18A
4 of the New Jersey Statutes, the president of a county college, or
5 their designees, three administrators exercising supervisory control
6 over a public institution of higher education as a whole; and three
7 current chairpersons of an academic department at a public
8 institution of higher education.

9 The commission would examine, for each public institution of
10 higher education in the State, the following:

11 (1) the number of administrators exercising supervisory control
12 over the public institution of higher education as a whole, or of
13 specific academic departments;

14 (2) the annual salary and benefits paid to each administrator;

15 (3) the roles and responsibilities of each administrator;

16 (4) the extent to which certain administrators serve duplicative
17 roles and responsibilities;

18 (5) the number of academic departments;

19 (6) the number of faculty and staff assigned to each department;

20 (7) the annual salaries and benefits paid to faculty and staff in
21 each department;

22 (8) the roles and responsibilities of the faculty and staff assigned
23 to each department;

24 (9) the extent to which certain faculty and staff in each
25 department serve duplicative roles and responsibilities;

26 (10) the ratio of faculty assigned to the department to the
27 number of students enrolled in the academic programs offered by
28 each department;

29 (11) any other information deemed relevant by the commission.

30 The commission would be required to submit an annual report to
31 the Assembly Higher Education Committee and the Senate Higher
32 Education Committee, or their successor committees, detailing the
33 commission's findings for each public institution of higher
34 education in the State and recommending ways in which certain
35 administrative costs can be reduced or eliminated.

36 Each year, the cost of attending a public institution of higher
37 education continues to increase. Despite the financial strain this
38 places on students, many of the State's public institutions are
39 unwilling to find ways to reduce the price of tuition. By creating
40 the Commission on the Administrative Costs of Public Institutions
41 of Higher Education, the Legislature can find ways to ensure that a
42 college education remains both affordable and accessible.