

P.L. 2021, CHAPTER 76, *approved May 5, 2021*
Assembly, No. 1070

1 **AN ACT** concerning the recruitment and retention of certain
2 students in STEM programs at institutions of higher education
3 and supplementing chapter 3B of Title 18A of the New Jersey
4 Statutes.

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

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9 1. The Secretary of Higher Education shall establish a program
10 to assist institutions of higher education in the recruitment and
11 retention of underrepresented students in science, technology,
12 engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs. Underrepresented
13 students include women and students from other populations
14 historically underrepresented in the STEM fields. The purpose of
15 the program shall be to develop guidance and strategies for the
16 institutions to:

17 a. identify cultural and institutional barriers experienced by
18 underrepresented students, including an assessment of the
19 academic, social, and family-related factors which may negatively
20 impact the recruitment and retention of those students into the
21 STEM fields; and

22 b. provide the students with the institutional and faculty
23 support necessary to allow underrepresented students in STEM
24 programs to reach their academic goals.

25 In the development of the guidance and strategies, the secretary
26 may examine any programs implemented in other states designed to
27 increase the recruitment and retention of underrepresented students
28 in STEM programs at institutions of higher education.

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30 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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35 Requires Secretary of Higher Education to develop guidance for
36 institutions of higher education to identify cultural barriers in
37 recruitment and retention of underrepresented students for science,
38 technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs.