

SENATE, No. 484

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator NICHOLAS J. SACCO

District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)

Senator NELLIE POU

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Directs four-year public institutions of higher education to develop plan to achieve six-year graduation rate of at least 70 percent for full-time undergraduate students by 2022-2023 academic year.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** concerning the graduation rates of four-year public
2 institutions of higher education and supplementing chapter 62 of
3 Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

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8 1. a. The governing board of a four-year public institution of
9 higher education shall develop a plan to achieve a six-year
10 graduation rate of at least 70 percent by the 2022-2023 academic
11 year for full-time students enrolled in a baccalaureate degree
12 program regularly requiring eight semesters to complete.

13 In developing the plan, the board shall factor into the graduation
14 rate the number of students who transfer to another four-year
15 institution of higher education prior to graduation from the public
16 institution.

17 b. The board shall establish a study committee to advise and
18 make recommendations to the board on the plan to achieve a six-
19 year graduation rate of at least 70 percent as required pursuant to
20 subsection a. of this section. The committee shall consist of three
21 members of the board, one faculty member selected in consultation
22 with the majority representative of the faculty union, and one
23 student.

24 c. The board shall review the recommendations made by the
25 committee and submit the plan by January 1, 2019 to the Secretary
26 of Higher Education for approval. The board shall not submit the
27 plan prior to its review of the committee's recommendations. In the
28 event that the secretary:

29 (1) approves the plan, the board shall transmit a copy of the
30 approved plan to the New Jersey Presidents' Council, the Senate
31 Higher Education Committee, and the Assembly Higher Education
32 Committee, or their successor committees; or

33 (2) does not approve the plan, the secretary shall provide to the
34 board, in writing, the reasons for the disapproval of the plan. Upon
35 receiving the secretary's reasons for disapproving the plan, the
36 board shall develop a new plan and resubmit the plan to the
37 secretary within 90 days.

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39 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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44 This bill directs the governing board of a four-year public
45 institution of higher education to develop a plan to achieve a six-
46 year graduation rate of at least 70 percent by the 2022-2023
47 academic year for full-time students enrolled in a baccalaureate
48 degree program regularly requiring eight semesters to complete.

1 The plan will be submitted for approval to the Secretary of Higher
2 Education by January 1, 2019.

3 The bill stipulates that the governing board must establish a
4 study committee to advise and make recommendations to the board
5 on the plan to achieve the six-year graduation rate of at least 70
6 percent. The board may not submit the plan to the secretary prior to
7 its review of the committee's recommendations.

8 If the secretary approves the plan, the board is to transmit a copy
9 of the approved plan to the New Jersey Presidents' Council, the
10 Senate Higher Education Committee, and the Assembly Higher
11 Education Committee. If the secretary does not approve the plan,
12 the secretary will provide the board, in writing, with the reasons for
13 the disapproval. The board is then required to develop a new plan
14 and resubmit the plan to the secretary within 90 days.