

[First Reprint]
SENATE, No. 791

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

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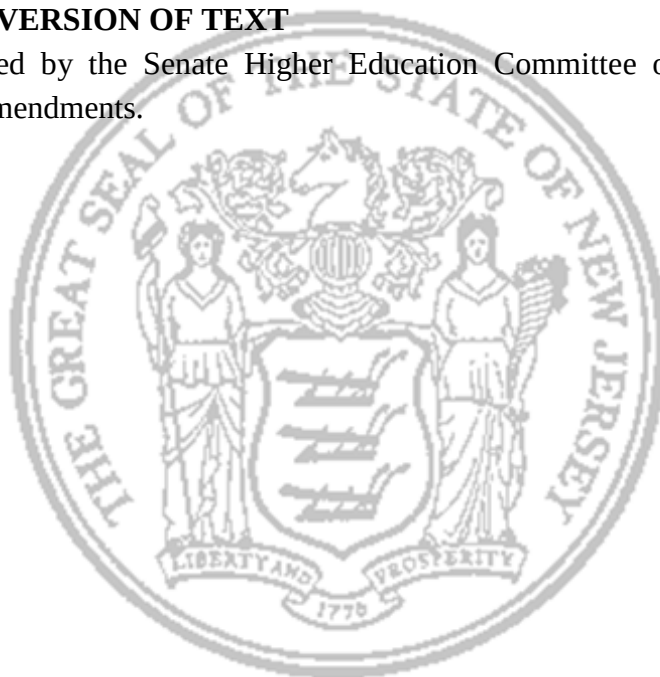
Senator Ruiz

SYNOPSIS

Requires undergraduate students to file degree plan and requires institutions of higher education and certain proprietary institutions to develop pathway systems to graduation.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Higher Education Committee on January 30, 2020, with amendments.



1 AN ACT concerning college degree completion and supplementing
2 chapter 3B of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. a. As used in this act:

8 “Degree plan” means a statement of the course of study
9 requirements that an undergraduate student enrolled in an institution
10 of higher education or a proprietary institution must complete to
11 graduate from the institution.

12 “Proprietary institution” means a proprietary institution ¹whose
13 students are eligible to participate in any student financial aid
14 program administered by the Higher Education Student Assistance
15 Authority licensed to offer academic degrees¹.

16 b. Except as otherwise provided in subsection c. of this section,
17 an undergraduate student enrolled in a four-year institution of
18 higher education shall file a degree plan with the institution as soon
19 as practicable, but not later than by the completion of 45 credit
20 hours of course work.

21 c. An undergraduate student who transfers to a four-year
22 institution of higher education with at least 45 credit hours of
23 course work shall file a degree plan with the institution during the
24 student’s first semester at the institution.

25 d. A degree-seeking undergraduate student enrolled in a county
26 college or proprietary institution shall file a degree plan with the
27 institution as soon as practicable, but not later than by the
28 completion of 30 credit hours of course work.

29 e. A student who changes his course of study and selects a new
30 academic major or minor, or who experiences such other change in
31 circumstance as defined by the institution, shall file a revised
32 degree plan with the institution.

33 f. A degree plan filed pursuant to this section shall:

34 (1) be developed in consultation with an appropriate academic
35 official in the student’s degree program, or if an appropriate
36 academic official is not available in the student’s degree program,
37 an appropriate academic official at the institution; and

38 (2) follow a pathway to a degree as required pursuant to section
39 2 of this act.

40

41 2. a. An institution of higher education or a proprietary
42 institution shall:

43 (1) develop a pathway system whereby the institution
44 establishes graduation progress benchmarks for each academic

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:

¹Senate SHI committee amendments adopted January 30, 2020.

1 major and for the general education program for students who have
2 not declared a major;

3 (2) require the pathway for each first-time degree-seeking
4 student to include credit-bearing mathematics and English courses
5 that are applicable towards degree requirements in the first 24 credit
6 hours of course work; and

7 (3) require the pathway for each degree-seeking student enrolled
8 in a remedial course in mathematics, reading, or English to include
9 the credit-bearing course in mathematics, reading, or English
10 concurrent with or in the semester immediately following
11 completion of the remedial course.

12 b. (1) The graduation progress benchmarks established
13 pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection a. of this section shall
14 specify the credit and course criteria that indicate satisfactory
15 progress toward a degree.

16 (2) The academic departments of an institution of higher
17 education or a proprietary institution shall establish schedules for
18 regular periodic reviews of student progress.

19 (3) A student who is in danger of falling behind the graduation
20 progress benchmarks shall be required to consult with an
21 appropriate academic official prior to course registration.

22

23 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first be
24 applicable to the first class of students entering ¹**["a public"]** an¹
25 institution of higher education ¹or proprietary institution¹ following
26 the effective date of this act.