

[Second Reprint]
SENATE, No. 791

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM

District 31 (Hudson)

Senator NELLIE POU

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

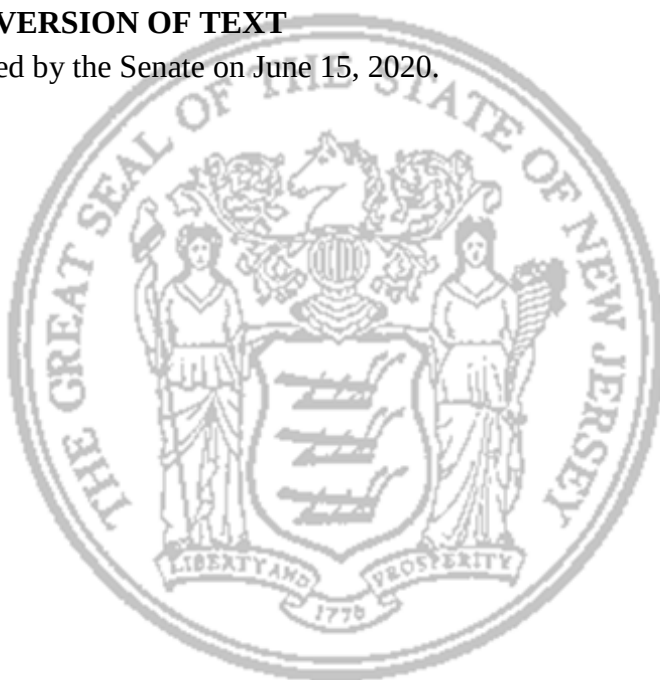
Senator Ruiz

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 amended by the Senate on June 15, 2020.



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 ²[45] 60²
20 credit hours of course work.

21 c. ²[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] A four-year institution of
25 higher education shall develop a process for undergraduate students
26 who transfer to the institution with at least 45 credit hours of
27 course work to develop and file a degree plan with the institution
28 during the student’s second semester at the institution².

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

33 e. ²[A] An institution of higher education or proprietary
34 institution shall provide notice to a² student who ²[changes his
35 course of study and]² selects a new academic major or minor, or
36 who experiences such other change in circumstance as defined by
37 the institution, ²that the student² shall file a revised degree plan
38 with the institution ²as soon as practicable².

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

40 (1) be developed in consultation with an appropriate academic
41 official in the student’s degree program, or if an appropriate
42 academic official is not available in the student’s degree program,
43 an appropriate academic official at the institution; and

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.

²Senate floor amendments adopted June 15, 2020.

1 (2) follow a pathway to a degree as required pursuant to section
2 2 of this act ²to the extent practicable².

3

4 2. a. An institution of higher education or a proprietary
5 institution shall:

6 (1) develop a pathway system whereby the institution
7 establishes graduation progress benchmarks for each academic
8 major and for the general education program for students who have
9 not declared a major;

10 (2) require the pathway for each first-time degree-seeking
11 student to include credit-bearing mathematics and English courses
12 that are applicable towards degree requirements in the first 24 credit
13 hours of course work ²completed at the institution of higher
14 education or proprietary institution²; and

15 (3) require the pathway for each degree-seeking student enrolled
16 in a remedial course in mathematics, reading, or English to include
17 the credit-bearing course in mathematics, reading, or English
18 concurrent with or in the semester immediately following
19 completion of the remedial course.

20 b. (1) The graduation progress benchmarks established
21 pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection a. of this section shall
22 specify the credit and course criteria that indicate satisfactory
23 progress toward a degree.

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

27 (3) A student who is in danger of falling behind the graduation
28 progress benchmarks shall be required to consult with an
29 appropriate academic official ²**[prior to course registration]**².

30

31 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first be
32 applicable to the first class of students entering ¹**[a public]** an¹
33 institution of higher education ¹or proprietary institution¹ following
34 the effective date of this act.