

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 1229

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 3, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM

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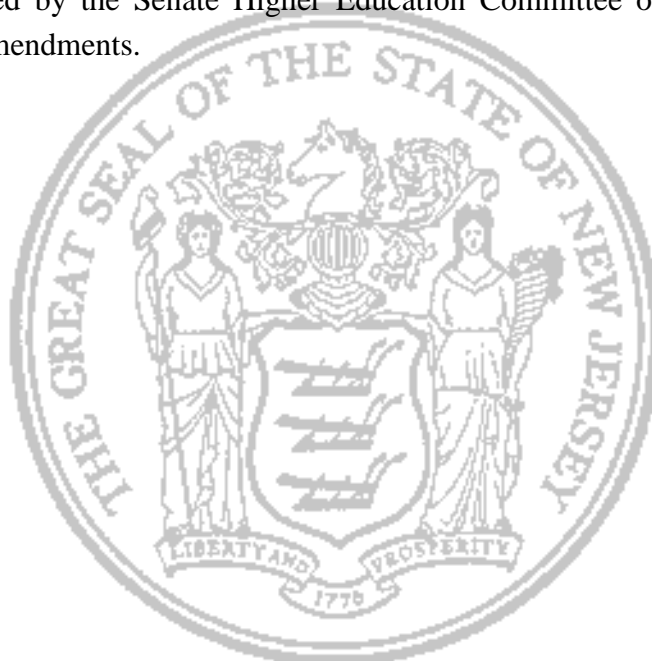
Senator Ruiz

SYNOPSIS

Establishes pilot program to provide guidance to students applying for federal financial aid.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Higher Education Committee on December 9, 2021, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/9/2021)

1 AN ACT establishing a pilot program to provide guidance to
2 students applying for federal financial aid.

3

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

6

7 1. a. The Commissioner of Education shall establish a three-
8 year pilot program to provide public school students with
9 information on and assistance in the proper completion and
10 submission of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
11 The goal of the pilot program shall be to ensure that each student
12 enrolled in grade 12 has the opportunity and instruction necessary
13 to apply for federal financial aid.

14 b. A school district that wants to participate in the program
15 shall submit a proposal to the commissioner detailing its
16 commitment to training staff or community volunteers on the proper
17 completion and submission of the FAFSA and providing class time
18 to students for instruction on how to complete the FAFSA with their
19 parents or guardians. The proposal shall also indicate whether the
20 district intends to offer any additional events, workshops, or other
21 programming for the parents and guardians of students on FAFSA
22 completion and submission.

23 c. The commissioner shall select four districts in each of the
24 southern, central, and northern regions of the State to participate in
25 the program and shall seek a cross section of school districts from
26 urban, suburban, and rural areas of the State.

27

28 2. a. The board of education of a participating school district
29 shall ensure that each student receives information at least once before
30 the student enters grade 12 on how to properly complete and submit
31 the FAFSA. Information ¹**[shall]** may¹ be disseminated through
32 classroom instruction during regular school hours. Information may
33 also be provided through an existing school program, family
34 information sessions, or group or individual sessions with school
35 counselors. The information provided shall include, but need not be
36 limited to, material related to:

37 (1) the types of documentation and personal information that each
38 student financial aid application requires, including documents relating
39 to income taxes, finances and income, college choices, academic
40 status, and personal identification such as social security or taxpayer
41 identification numbers;

42 (2) an explanation of terms used in the FAFSA application. These
43 definitions may include, but need not be limited to, “legal
44 guardianship,” “household size,” “parent,” “dependent,” and “taxable
45 college grants and scholarships;”

46 (3) eligibility requirements for student financial aid; 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 December 9, 2021.

1 (4) application timelines and submission deadlines for the FAFSA.

2 b. ¹The board of education of a participating school district shall
3 ensure that the parent or guardian of each student entering grade 12
4 receives, via written or electronic means, information on the FAFSA
5 and how to properly complete and submit the form.

6 c.¹ The board of education of a participating school district shall
7 ensure that a paper copy of the FAFSA is provided upon request to
8 each high school student or his parent or guardian.

9 ¹[c.] d.¹ The board of education shall ensure that any
10 information shared by a student, parent, or guardian pursuant to this
11 act is handled according to applicable State and federal privacy
12 laws and regulations.

13

14 3. At the conclusion of the pilot program, the Commissioner of
15 Education shall submit a report to the Governor and, pursuant to
16 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), the Legislature. The
17 report shall contain information on the implementation of the pilot
18 program including the commissioner's recommendation on the
19 feasibility of implementing the program on a Statewide basis.

20

21 4. This act shall take effect immediately.