

SENATE, No. 1359

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 10, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

Directs Secretary of Higher Education to revoke proprietary school's license to award academic degrees if school fails to achieve certain minimum graduation rates.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** concerning the graduation rates of certain proprietary
2 schools and supplementing chapter 3B of Title 18A of the New
3 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. As used in this section, “proprietary school” means a
9 postsecondary institution in New Jersey that is operated for profit
10 and which has been authorized to offer licensed degree programs.

11 b. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection c. of this
12 section, the Secretary of Higher Education shall revoke a
13 proprietary school’s license to award academic degrees if, by the
14 completion of the sixth full academic year that occurs following the
15 effective date of this act, the school fails to achieve a six-year
16 graduation rate of at least 75% for full-time students who are
17 enrolled in a four-year degree program.

18 (2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection c. of this section,
19 the Secretary of Higher Education shall revoke a proprietary
20 school’s license to award academic degrees if, by the completion of
21 the sixth full academic year that occurs following the effective date
22 of this act, the school fails to achieve a three-year graduation rate of
23 at least 75% for full-time students who are enrolled in a two-year
24 degree program.

25 c. If, at the completion of the fifth full academic year that
26 occurs following the effective date of this act, a proprietary school
27 is not on track to achieve the minimum graduation rates specified in
28 subsection b. of this section, but is making sufficient progress
29 toward achieving those rates, the secretary at his discretion may
30 allow the school additional time to achieve those rates before
31 revoking the school’s license to award academic degrees.

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33 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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38 This bill provides that the Secretary of Higher Education will
39 revoke a proprietary school’s license to award academic degrees if
40 the school fails to achieve a six-year graduation rate of at least 75%
41 for full-time students enrolled in a four-year degree program by the
42 completion of the sixth full academic year that occurs following the
43 bill’s effective date. The bill further provides that the secretary will
44 revoke a proprietary school’s license to award academic degrees if
45 the school fails to achieve a three-year graduation rate of at least
46 75% for full-time students enrolled in a two-year degree program by
47 the completion of the sixth full academic year that occurs following
48 the bill’s effective date. However, if after five years, a proprietary

1 school is not on track to achieve these minimum graduation rates
2 for full-time students, but is making sufficient progress toward
3 achieving that goal, the secretary at his discretion may allow the
4 school additional time to achieve the rates before revoking the
5 school's license to award academic degrees.