

SENATE, No. 2892

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator NELLIE POU

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Senator THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

SYNOPSIS

Requires Secretary of Higher Education to develop guidance for institutions of higher education to identify cultural barriers in recruitment and retention of underrepresented students for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/22/2020)

1 **AN ACT** concerning the recruitment and retention of certain
2 students in STEM programs at institutions of higher education
3 and supplementing chapter 3B of Title 18A of the New Jersey
4 Statutes.

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

8
9 1. The Secretary of Higher Education shall establish a program
10 to assist institutions of higher education in the recruitment and
11 retention of underrepresented students in science, technology,
12 engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs. Underrepresented
13 students include women and students from other populations
14 historically underrepresented in the STEM fields. The purpose of
15 the program shall be to develop guidance and strategies for the
16 institutions to:

17 a. identify cultural and institutional barriers experienced by
18 underrepresented students, including an assessment of the
19 academic, social, and family-related factors which may negatively
20 impact the recruitment and retention of those students into the
21 STEM fields; and

22 b. provide the students with the institutional and faculty
23 support necessary to allow underrepresented students in STEM
24 programs to reach their academic goals.

25 In the development of the guidance and strategies, the secretary
26 may examine any programs implemented in other states designed to
27 increase the recruitment and retention of underrepresented students
28 in STEM programs at institutions of higher education.

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30 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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35 This bill requires the Secretary of Higher Education to establish
36 a program to assist institutions of higher education in the
37 recruitment and retention of underrepresented students in the
38 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)
39 programs. Underrepresented students include women and students
40 from other populations historically underrepresented in the STEM
41 fields. The purpose of the program is to develop guidance and
42 strategies for the institutions to:

43 • identify cultural and institutional barriers experienced by
44 underrepresented students, including an assessment of the
45 academic, social, and family-related factors which may
46 negatively impact the recruitment and retention of those
47 students into the STEM fields; and

- 1 • provide the students with the institutional and faculty
- 2 support necessary to allow underrepresented students in
- 3 STEM programs to reach their academic goals.