

SENATE, No. 1115

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 31, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM

District 31 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Prohibits institutions of higher education and certain proprietary institutions from withholding transcript due to outstanding balance on student's account.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



S1115 CUNNINGHAM

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1 AN ACT concerning the withholding of student transcripts by
2 institutions of higher education and certain proprietary
3 institutions and supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey
4 Statutes.

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

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9 1. As used in this act:

10 “Debt” means any money, obligation, claim, or sum, due or
11 owing, or alleged to be due or owing, from a current or former
12 student, but does not include the fee, if any, charged to all students
13 for the actual costs of providing the transcripts; and

14 “Institution” means an institution of higher education or
15 proprietary institution licensed to offer academic degrees.

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17 2. An institution shall not, due to an outstanding balance on a
18 current or former student’s account:

19 a. refuse to provide a transcript for a current or former student
20 on the grounds that the student owes a debt;

21 b. condition the provision of a transcript on the payment of a
22 debt, other than a fee charged to provide the transcript;

23 c. charge a higher fee for obtaining a transcript, or provide less
24 favorable treatment of a transcript request because a current or
25 former student owes a debt; or

26 d. use transcript issuance as a tool for debt collection.

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28 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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33 This bill prohibits institutions of higher education and certain
34 proprietary institutions from withholding a student’s transcript due
35 to an outstanding balance on the student’s account.

36 This bill prohibits an institution, due to an outstanding balance
37 on a current or former student’s account, from:

38 • refusing to provide a transcript for a current or former
39 student on the grounds that the student owes a debt;

40 • conditioning the provision of a transcript on the payment of
41 a debt, other than a fee charged to provide the transcript;

42 • charging a higher fee for obtaining a transcript, or provide
43 less favorable treatment of a transcript request because a
44 current or former student owes a debt; or

45 • using transcript issuance as a tool for debt collection.