

SENATE, No. 1731

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 28, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator VINCENT J. POLISTINA

District 2 (Atlantic)

Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM

District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Oroho and Zwicker

SYNOPSIS

Establishes New Jersey Higher Education Student Advisory Commission.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/14/2022)

1 AN ACT establishing the New Jersey Higher Education Student
2 Advisory Commission and supplementing chapter 3B of Title
3 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

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8 1. a. There is established a New Jersey Higher Education
9 Student Advisory Commission in, but not of, the Department of
10 State. The commission shall consist of 14 members including: three
11 student representatives from the State colleges and universities
12 established pursuant to chapter 64 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
13 Statutes, a student representative from each of the four public
14 research universities, three student representatives from the county
15 colleges, three student representatives from the independent
16 colleges and universities, and one student representative from a
17 proprietary degree-granting institution. The New Jersey Education
18 Association shall appoint one member who is a member of the NJEA
19 Preservice Program and represents any one of the higher education
20 sectors, and the Secretary of Higher Education shall appoint the
21 remaining members.

22 b. A student enrolled in an institution of higher education or a
23 proprietary degree-granting institution in the State may submit an
24 application to serve on the commission to the Secretary of Higher
25 Education. The application shall detail the student's experience as
26 a campus leader and shall include a letter of recommendation from
27 the president of the institution of higher education or the proprietary
28 institution at which the student is enrolled. The secretary in making
29 the appointments shall attempt to provide a balanced representation
30 of the geographic regions of the State.

31 c. Appointments to the commission shall be made for a term of
32 one year, although the secretary may reappoint a student for
33 additional terms. The secretary shall make every effort to ensure
34 that at least one member is reappointed to the commission from the
35 prior year's membership.

36 d. Vacancies in the membership of the commission shall be
37 filled in the same manner as the original appointments are made.
38 Vacancies occurring other than by expiration of a term shall be
39 filled for the unexpired term.

40 e. The members of the commission shall serve without
41 compensation but shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses
42 necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties within the
43 limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the
44 commission for its purposes.

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46 2. The commission shall organize as soon as practicable
47 following the appointment of its members, but no later than 60 days

1 after the effective date of this act. The commission shall choose a
2 chairperson from among its members and shall appoint a secretary
3 who need not be a member of the commission. The commission
4 shall meet a minimum of three times each year. The minutes of
5 each meeting shall be posted on the Office of the Secretary of
6 Higher Education's website.

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8 3. The Office of the Secretary of Higher Education shall
9 provide such stenographic, clerical, and other administrative
10 assistants, and such professional staff as the commission requires to
11 carry out its work. The commission also shall be entitled to call to
12 its assistance and avail itself of the services of the employees of any
13 State, county, or municipal department, board, bureau, commission,
14 or agency as it may require and as may be available for its purposes.

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16 4. It shall be the responsibility of the commission to advise the
17 secretary on system-wide issues of concern to students. The
18 commission shall annually report to the Assembly Higher Education
19 Committee and the Senate Higher Education Committee, or their
20 successor committees on the concerns, perspectives, and
21 experiences of students attending institutions of higher education
22 and proprietary degree-granting institutions in the State and may
23 make recommendations on suggested legislative initiatives.

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25 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

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28 STATEMENT

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30 This bill establishes the New Jersey Higher Education Student
31 Advisory Commission in, but not of, the Department of State. The
32 commission will consist of 14 members appointed by the Secretary
33 of Higher Education including: three student representatives of the
34 State colleges and universities, a student representative of each of
35 the four public research universities, three student representatives of
36 the county colleges, three student representatives of the independent
37 colleges and universities, and one student representative of a
38 proprietary degree-granting institution.

39 Under the bill, a student enrolled in an institution of higher
40 education or a proprietary degree-granting institution in the State
41 may submit an application to serve on the commission to the
42 Secretary of Higher Education.

43 The commission is charged with advising the secretary on
44 system-wide issues of concern to students. The commission is
45 directed to annually report to the Assembly Higher Education
46 Committee and the Senate Higher Education Committee, or their

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1 successor committees on the concerns, perspectives, and
2 experiences of students attending institutions of higher education or
3 proprietary degree-granting institutions in the State and may make
4 recommendations on suggested legislative initiatives.