

# ASSEMBLY, No. 2396

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman ERIK K. SIMONSEN**

**District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)**

**Assemblyman ANTWAN L. MCCLELLAN**

**District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Sampson**

**SYNOPSIS**

Directs Secretary of Higher Education to develop career and education guide for post secondary students with disabilities.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT concerning postsecondary students with disabilities and  
2 supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

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7 1. a. The Secretary of Higher Education, in consultation with  
8 the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development and the  
9 New Jersey Presidents' Council, shall develop a career and  
10 education guide for postsecondary students with disabilities. The  
11 guide shall include information for undergraduate and graduate  
12 students with disabilities on available resources at institutions of  
13 higher education that support both the academic goals and future  
14 career paths of students.

15 The career and education guide shall:

16 (1) identify the availability of, at each institution of higher  
17 education in the State:

18 (a) disability career centers, career counseling, and placement  
19 services;

20 (b) work-based learning options for students with disabilities,  
21 including internships, cooperative learning experiences, and  
22 independent study opportunities; and

23 (c) accommodations and supports such as note-taker services,  
24 exam accommodations, accessible seating, communication  
25 accommodations, specialty textbooks and equipment, accessible  
26 parking, housing and dining areas, and student groups;

27 (2) provide broad-based career planning information and  
28 guidance for undergraduate and graduate students with disabilities  
29 on:

30 (a) when, if, and how a student with a disability may disclose  
31 their disability with a prospective employer;

32 (b) how to negotiate and request reasonable accommodations on  
33 the job;

34 (c) workers' rights for employees with disabilities; and

35 (d) assistive technologies and other supports available to  
36 accommodate persons in the workplace; and

37 (3) detail a list of national and regional organizations, including  
38 contact information and websites, specifically tailored to meet the  
39 unique challenges of job seekers with disabilities.

40 b. The Office of the Secretary of Higher Education shall make  
41 the guide developed pursuant to this section publicly available on  
42 its website.

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44 2. This act shall take effect on the 90th day after the date of  
45 enactment.

STATEMENT

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This bill requires the Secretary of Higher Education, in consultation with the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development and the New Jersey Presidents' Council, to develop a career and education guide for postsecondary students with disabilities.

The guide will include information for undergraduate and graduate students with disabilities on available resources at institutions of higher education that support both the academic goals and future career paths of students. For each institution of higher education in the State, the guide will identify the availability of:

- (1) disability career centers, career counseling, and placement services;
- (2) work-based learning options for students with disabilities, including internships, cooperative learning experiences, and independent study opportunities; and
- (3) accommodations and supports such as note-taker services, exam accommodations, accessible seating, communication accommodations, specialty textbooks and equipment, accessible parking, housing and dining areas, and student groups.

The guide will also provide broad-based career planning information and guidance for undergraduate and graduate students with disabilities on:

- (1) when, if, and how a student with a disability may disclose their disability with a prospective employer;
- (2) how to negotiate and request reasonable accommodations on the job;
- (3) workers' rights for employees with disabilities; and
- (4) assistive technologies and other supports available to accommodate persons in the workplace.

Finally, the guide will detail a list of national and regional organizations, including contact information and websites, specifically tailored to meet the unique challenges of job seekers with disabilities.

The bill directs the secretary to make the guide publicly available on its website.