

P.L. 2009, CHAPTER 197, *approved January 14, 2010*
Assembly, No. 2911

1 **AN ACT** concerning consumer information for college students and
2 their families and supplementing chapter 3B of Title 18A of the
3 New 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. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "New Jersey
9 College Student and Parent Consumer Information Act."

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11 2. a. A four-year public institution of higher education shall
12 provide for public inspection on its website comprehensive
13 information on the cost of attendance, the graduation rates of
14 admitted students, and the faculty of the institution. The purpose of
15 the information shall be to maximize the awareness of students and
16 their families of the costs associated with enrollment in the
17 institution, the institution's success in ensuring the graduation of its
18 students, and the composition of the teaching faculty that a student
19 will encounter in his coursework. The institution shall post, and
20 annually update, a student consumer information report on its
21 website that includes:

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(1) overall four-year and six-year graduation rates;

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(2) four-year and six-year graduation rates by demographic group;

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(3) four-year and six-year graduation rates by major;

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(4) four-year and six-year graduation rates for student-athletes;

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(5) the student transfer rate;

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(6) an overview of the institutions to which former students of that
28 college or university have transferred prior to the completion of a
29 degree;

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(7) the cost for the current academic year of attending the
31 institution including tuition, student fees, room and board, and books
32 and materials;

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(8) a description of the types of financial assistance offered directly
34 by the institution to both student-athletes and to students who do not
35 participate in athletic programs at the institution;

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(9) the percent of student-athletes who receive financial assistance
37 directly from the institution and the average value of the assistance and
38 the percent of students who do not participate in athletic programs at
39 the institution who receive financial assistance directly from the
40 institution and the average value of the assistance;

1 (10) the total projected cost for an incoming freshman to live on
2 campus and complete a degree in four years and the total projected
3 cost for an incoming freshman to commute to school and complete a
4 degree in four years;

5 (11) the total projected cost for an incoming freshman to live on
6 campus and complete a degree in six years and the total projected cost
7 for an incoming freshman to commute to school and complete a degree
8 in six years;

9 (12) average student loan indebtedness of four-year graduates for
10 both students who live on campus and students who commute;

11 (13) average student loan indebtedness of six-year graduates for
12 both students who live on campus and students who commute;

13 (14) average student loan indebtedness of a student who withdraws
14 from the institution prior to the completion of a degree program for
15 both students who live on campus and students who commute;

16 (15) an overview of the institution's faculty, including the
17 percentage of faculty employed as a tenured professor, the percentage
18 of faculty employed as a full-time non-tenured professor, and the
19 percentage of faculty employed as an adjunct or visiting professor;

20 (16) the percentage of courses taught by each of the different
21 categories of faculty; and

22 (17) an indicator of each academic department's capacity to serve
23 the students majoring within that department's programs, as
24 determined by the Commission on Higher Education.

25 The institution shall provide with all paper applications for
26 admission to the institution a hard copy of the information prepared
27 pursuant to this section.

28 b. A four-year public institution of higher education shall
29 conform to the guidelines, criteria, and format prescribed by the
30 Commission on Higher Education in reporting the information
31 required pursuant to this section

32 c. A four-year public institution of higher education shall submit
33 its student consumer information report to the Commission on
34 Higher Education for inclusion in a comparative profile of the
35 student consumer information reports of all four-year public
36 institutions of higher education.

37 d. A four-year public institution of higher education shall ensure
38 that the page of its Internet site which includes its student consumer
39 information report contains a link to the page of the Commission on
40 Higher Education's Internet site that includes the comparative
41 profile required pursuant to subsection b. of section 3 of this act.

42 e. A four-year public institution of higher education shall ensure
43 that the Internet site for submitting an online application to the
44 institution contains a link to the institution's student consumer
45 information report.

46 f. A four-year public institution of higher education shall require
47 the parent or guardian of a student applying for admission into the
48 institution, or the student if he is an independent adult, to sign and

1 submit a statement acknowledging that he has reviewed the
2 institution's student consumer information report.

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4 3. a. The Commission on Higher Education shall issue
5 guidelines and criteria for collecting and calculating the information
6 required pursuant to section 2 of this act and shall prescribe a
7 uniform reporting method for posting the information.

8 b. The Commission on Higher Education shall annually compile
9 the student consumer information reports submitted pursuant to
10 subsection c. of section 2 of this act into a comparative profile of all
11 four-year public institutions of higher education. The commission
12 shall present the information on its website in a manner that allows
13 college students and their families to easily compare student
14 consumer information across institutions.

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16 4. This act shall take effect on the 61st day after the date of
17 enactment.

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STATEMENT

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21 This bill, which if enacted will be known as the "New Jersey
22 College Student and Parent Consumer Information Act," will
23 maximize the awareness of students and their families of the costs
24 associated with enrollment in the institution, the institution's
25 success in ensuring the graduation of its students, and the
26 composition of the teaching faculty that a student will encounter in
27 his coursework. Under the bill, each four-year public institution of
28 higher education in the State is required to provide on its website
29 comprehensive information on the cost of attendance, the
30 graduation rates of admitted students, and the faculty of the
31 institution. Such information must be updated annually. The
32 institution must also provide with all paper applications for admission
33 to the institution a hard copy of the information prepared under the bill
34 for the website.

35 The bill requires each four-year public institution of higher
36 education to:

37 (1) conform to the guidelines, criteria, and format prescribed by
38 the Commission on Higher Education in reporting the required
39 information;

40 (2) submit its student consumer information report to the
41 Commission on Higher Education for inclusion in a comparative
42 profile of the student consumer information reports of all four-year
43 public institutions of higher education;

44 (3) ensure that the page of its Internet site which includes its
45 student consumer information report contains a link to the
46 comparative profile of student consumer information reports on the
47 Commission on Higher Education's Internet site;

1 (4) ensure that the Internet site for submitting an online
2 application to the institution contains a link to the institution's
3 student consumer information report; and

4 (5) require the parent or guardian of a student applying for
5 admission into the institution, or the student if he is an independent
6 adult, to sign and submit a statement acknowledging that he has
7 reviewed the institution's student consumer information report.

8 The bill directs the Commission on Higher Education to issue
9 guidelines and criteria for collecting and calculating the information
10 required to be reported under the bill. The commission is further
11 directed to prescribe a uniform reporting method for the posting of
12 the information. The bill also directs the commission to compile a
13 comparative profile of the student consumer information reports of
14 the four-year public institutions of higher education and to present
15 the profile on its website in a manner that allows college students
16 and their families to easily compare student consumer information
17 across institutions.

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23 "New Jersey College Student and Parent Consumer Information
24 Act"; requires each four-year public institution of higher education
25 to provide on its website certain information regarding its costs,
faculty, and graduation rates.