

SENATE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2038

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 5, 2024

The Senate Higher Education Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2038, with committee amendments.

This amended bill requires a public institution of higher education to post certain information on the institution's website.

The amended bill requires a four-year public institution of higher education to post on its website the average time-to-degree completion, defined in the amended bill as the time elapsed between the student's initial enrollment in the institution and the degree conferral date for each baccalaureate degree awarded by the institution.

The amended bill requires a county college to post on its website an appropriate measure of student outcomes, as determined by the Secretary of Higher Education, in consultation with the New Jersey Council of County Colleges, for each associate degree awarded by the institution.

Additionally, the amended bill requires a public institution of higher education to post a copy of the institution's annual fiscal monitoring report and any audit required by the Secretary of Higher Education pursuant to the requirements of State law. The institution is required to annually submit the link to this website to the Secretary of Higher Education and post a summary of this information on the institution's website for the public that is clear, simple, and understandable.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2024-2025 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

- stipulate that only four-year public institutions of higher education are required to post the average time-to-degree completion for each baccalaureate degree awarded by the institution;
- require county colleges to post an appropriate measure of student outcomes on the institution's website for each associate degree awarded by the institution;

- make a technical correction to reflect the enactment of P.L.2023, c.115;
- clarify that the bill's provision requiring the posting of the annual audit submitted to the Secretary of Higher Education only applies to those institutions already required to prepare the annual audit; and
- include in the bill's requirements the posting of certain additional comprehensive audits completed pursuant to current State law.