

# SENATE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **SENATE, No. 857**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 14, 2022

The Senate Higher Education Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 857 with committee amendments.

As amended, the bill requires students enrolled in public institutions of higher education to receive instruction on American government and civic engagement. Under the bill, beginning with the 2022-2023 academic year, the governing board of a public institution of higher education will require students pursuing a degree to receive educational instruction on American government and civic engagement prior to graduation from the institution.

By requiring students to receive instruction on American government and civic engagement, public institutions of higher education in the State will more adequately equip individuals with the knowledge necessary to make informed civic decisions and ensure a globally-aware and socially-responsible citizenry.

#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee adopted a minor technical amendment to the bill to correct a reference to “pursuing.”