



# SENATE BILL 536: Students Know Before You Go & Central Resid.

2016-2017 General Assembly

|                       |               |                     |                      |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Committee:</b>     |               | <b>Date:</b>        | June 14, 2016        |
| <b>Introduced by:</b> | Sen. Barefoot | <b>Prepared by:</b> | Drupti Chauhan       |
| <b>Analysis of:</b>   | Third Edition |                     | Committee Co-Counsel |

**SUMMARY:** *Senate Bill 536 would direct the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority (NCSEAA) to provide students and parents with information to help with selecting a major and on career options. This information would include data on projected employment needs in the economy and salary ranges.*

*The bill would also authorize a coordinated and centralized residency determination process to be administered by NCSEAA for the determination of in-State tuition.*

## SECTION 1

**BILL ANALYSIS:** Section 1 would direct the NCSEAA to provide information on a website under a section entitled "Know Before You Go", to students and their parents to assist in selecting major and career options. The information must include, as data is available, projected employment needs in the labor economy and the salary ranges for those areas of employment, college majors which may fulfill those employment needs, and institutions that may offer those majors. The NCSEAA may use existing sources of public information to develop the information for the website.

As data is available, the NCSEAA must provide information based on aggregate data for outcomes at public and private institutions of higher education in North Carolina. Outcomes information for each institution must include the following:

- Completion rates within the expected number of semesters for the degree sought.
- Transfer rates of students to other institutions.
- Percentage of students receiving financial aid, by type of aid.
- Average and median amount of loan debt upon student graduation, by major.
- Average and median salary, by major.
- Percentage of graduates employed within six months of graduation, by major.
- Percentage of graduates enrolled in graduate school within six months of graduation, by major.

## SECTION 2

**CURRENT LAW:** The initial determination of an individual's eligibility for in-State tuition is currently made at the public institution of higher education to which the person has applied. In order to qualify for a State-funded need-based scholarship to attend a private institution of higher education in the State, an individual must meet a number of requirements including qualifying as a resident for tuition purposes. The statutes also provide that definitions of residency may be prescribed by the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina and published in the residency manual issued by the

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Board of Governors. In Section 11.23 of S.L. 2015-241 (2015 Appropriations Act), the General Assembly directed the NCSEAA to perform the functions necessary to establish and implement a coordinated and centralized process for residency determination for tuition purposes for students who are admitted to constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina, a North Carolina community college, or who apply for State-funded financial aid to attend eligible private post-secondary institutions in the State. The process was directed to be completed for terms of enrollment beginning after December 31, 2016.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** Section 2 would provide that determination of residency for tuition purposes must be through the coordinated and centralized residency determination process administered by the NCSEAA and in accordance with the statutory requirements.

The NCSEAA would be given specific authority to administer the coordinated and centralized process for determining residency for tuition and State-funded financial aid purposes that is jointly developed and implemented by The University of North Carolina, the North Carolina Community College System, and the NCSEAA, in consultation with the North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities.

The PCS also removes statutory language that the definitions of residency may be published in the residency manual by the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina.

The State Board of Community Colleges would be directed to adopt a policy that requires the community colleges within the North Carolina Community College System to accept only the residency classification developed under the coordinated and centralized process for determining residency for tuition purposes.

The NCSEAA would establish a council with representatives from The University of North Carolina, the North Carolina Community College System, and the North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities to guide and assist the NCSEAA in developing and implementing any policies needed to administer the coordinated and centralized process for determining residency for tuition and State-funded financial aid purposes.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Section 1 of the act would be effective April 1, 2017. Section 2 of the act would be effective September 1, 2016 and would apply to all undergraduate enrollments for academic quarters, terms, or semesters, that begin on or after January 1, 2017 and to all graduate enrollments for academic quarters, terms, or semesters, that begin on or after January 1, 2018.