



SENATE BILL 536: Students Know Before You Go

**This Bill Analysis
reflects the contents
of the bill as it was
presented in
committee.**

2015-2016 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Education/Higher Education	Date:	April 22, 2015
Introduced by:	Sen. Barefoot	Prepared by:	James Ritter
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition S536-CSTW-20		Legislative Analyst

SUMMARY: *House Bill 536 enacts G.S. 116-209.16A, which requires the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority (NCSEAA) to provide accurate and complete data to students on postsecondary student retention, graduation, and earnings outcomes at North Carolina postsecondary institutions.*

The PCS for House Bill 536 requires the NCSEAA to update this information on its website annually. It also requires the posted information to report on outcomes at each public and private institution of higher education that include the (i) median amount of loan debt upon graduation by major; (ii) median salary by major; (iii) percentage of full time graduates employed full-time within six months of graduation by major; and (iv) percentage of graduates enrolled in graduate school within six months of graduation by major.

CURRENT LAW: The current statutes do not require the NCSEAA to provide postsecondary student retention, graduation, and earnings outcome information on their website for students and their parents.

BILL ANALYSIS: The PCS for House Bill 536 requires the NCSEAA to provide information on its website entitled "Know Before You Go", to potential students and their parents to assist in major and career options that must be updated annually. The NCSEAA must provide information on the projected employment needs in the labor economy and the salary ranges for those areas of employment, college majors which may fulfill those needs, and institutions that may offer those majors. The NCSEAA may use existing sources of public information to develop the information for the website.

The NCSEAA must as data is available, provide information based on aggregate data for outcomes at public and private institutions of higher education in North Carolina. Outcomes information for each public and private institution of higher education 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 full-time within six months of graduation, by major.
- Percentage of graduates enrolled in graduate school within six months of graduation, by major.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act is effective when it becomes law.

O. Walker Reagan
Director



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