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SYNOPSIS:

This bill creates the Students' Right to Know Act of 2023.

This bill would require the Alabama Commission on Higher Education to collect and compile specific data and create an interactive online tool to allow students to make informed decisions regarding their education and professional future.

This bill would also require the commission and the Workforce Development Division of the Department of Commerce to enter into a memorandum of understanding to share data or information as necessary.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To create the Students' Right to Know Act of 2023; to require the Alabama Commission on Higher Education to collect data and create an interactive online tool for students for use in making informed decisions relating to education and professions; and to require the commission and Workforce Development Division of the Department of Commerce to share data and information as necessary to comply with this act.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:



29 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as
30 the Students' Right to Know Act of 2023.

31 Section 2. This act requires the Alabama Commission on
32 Higher Education to provide information to students to allow
33 those students to make informed decisions about their
34 education and professional future.

35 Section 3. As used in this act, the following terms
36 shall have the following meanings:

37 (1) COMMISSION. The Alabama Commission on Higher
38 Education.

39 (2) DIVISION. The Workforce Development Division of the
40 Department of Commerce that administers or oversees the
41 state's workforce programs, state job board, or any type of
42 workforce program that receives funding from the United States
43 Department of Labor.

44 Section 4. The commission shall collect and compile all
45 of the following information on an annual basis:

46 (1) The 50 most in-demand jobs in the state and their
47 corresponding starting salaries and education level
48 requirements.

49 (2) The average cost for all colleges and universities
50 in the state.

51 (3) The average monthly student loan payment for
52 individuals attending colleges and universities in the state,
53 by institution.

54 (4) The average three-year student loan default rate
55 for all colleges and universities in the state.

56 (5) The average total student loan debt for graduates



57 of colleges and universities, for two-year, four-year, and
58 graduate programs.

59 (6) The average four-year graduation rate for all
60 universities in the state.

61 (7) The average graduation rate for all community
62 colleges in the state.

63 (8) The completion rates for apprenticeship programs,
64 high school credential programs, and career and technical
65 education programs.

66 (9) The average salary one year after graduation by
67 college or university major.

68 (10) The average salary one year after completion of an
69 apprenticeship program, high school credential program, or
70 career and technical education program.

71 (11) The base pay for newly enlisted service members.

72 Section 5. (a) The commission shall create an
73 interactive online tool, known as the Student Horizon
74 Database, to publish and provide to individuals information
75 including, but not limited to, the following:

76 (1) The 50 most popular education programs in colleges,
77 universities, and career and technical education programs in
78 the state based on information collected in Section 4.

79 (2) A searchable database capable of comparing all of
80 the following based on users' selections:

81 a. Average annual cost, including average financial
82 assistance.

83 b. Average annual cost, not including any financial
84 assistance.



- 85 c. Graduation rate.
- 86 d. Average salary after attending, but not completing,
87 a college or university program.
- 88 e. Average salary for individuals completing one of the
89 five most popular majors at a college or university.
- 90 f. Full-time enrollment.
- 91 g. Percentage of students not in default of student
92 loans.
- 93 h. Average total debt after graduation.
- 94 i. Percentage of students receiving federal loans.
- 95 j. Average monthly student loan payments for graduates.
- 96 k. Average monthly student loan payments for
97 nongraduates.
- 98 l. Percentage of students who return after their first
99 year.
- 100 m. Graduation, withdrawal, transfer, and current
101 enrollment rates for students within eight semesters after
102 enrollment.

103 (b) The database shall allow students to have the
104 option of selecting a specific major or course of study at a
105 specific institution, and be able to reasonably identify all
106 of the information referenced in this section.

107 Section 6. On or before October 31, 2024, and each
108 October thereafter, the commission shall publish and make
109 available to high school students a Student Graduate Horizon
110 Scorecard that shall contain all of the following data,
111 collected and aggregated pursuant to this act:

- 112 (1) The 50 highest paying four-year degrees.



113 (2) The 20 highest paying career and technical
114 education and certificate programs.

115 (3) The 25 most in-demand jobs in the state and their
116 corresponding starting salaries and education requirements.

117 (4) The base pay, benefits, and average signing bonus
118 for enlistment in the military, along with the necessary Armed
119 Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) score by the
120 military branch.

121 Section 7. The commission shall issue an annual report
122 to the Legislature outlining the effectiveness of colleges,
123 universities, or any other postsecondary education
124 institutions accepting public funding in aligning their
125 curricula or programs with the state job market, including the
126 degree to which they contribute to filling the most in-demand
127 jobs in the state.

128 Section 8. The commission and the division shall enter
129 into a memorandum of understanding to share any data or
130 information necessary to comply with this act.

131 Section 9. To satisfy the requirements of this act, the
132 commission may do either of the following:

133 (1) Utilize and incorporate preexisting databases, such
134 as the United States College Scorecard, administered by the
135 federal department of education, as well as any other data
136 sets available to the commission.

137 (2) Compel colleges and universities to collect and
138 provide information or data as necessary.

139 Section 10. The commission shall adopt any necessary
140 rules to implement this act.



141 Section 11. This act shall become effective January 1,
142 2024, following its passage and approval by the Governor, or
143 its otherwise becoming law.