

SB176 ENGROSSED



1 DQA6HH-2
2 By Senators Orr, Albritton, Livingston, Butler, Allen,
3 Waggoner, Roberts, Jones
4 RFD: Finance and Taxation Education
5 First Read: 05-Apr-23
6 2023 Regular Session



SB176 Engrossed

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

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:

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

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

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

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

(2) DIVISION. The Workforce Development Division of the Department of Commerce that administers or oversees the state's workforce programs, state job board, or any type of



SB176 Engrossed

29 workforce program that receives funding from the United States
30 Department of Labor.

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

33 (1) The 50 most in-demand jobs in the state and their
34 corresponding starting salaries and education level
35 requirements.

36 (2) The average cost for all colleges and universities
37 in the state.

38 (3) The average monthly student loan payment for
39 individuals attending colleges and universities in the state,
40 by institution.

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

43 (5) The average total student loan debt for graduates
44 of colleges and universities, for two-year, four-year, and
45 graduate programs.

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

48 (7) The average graduation rate for all community
49 colleges in the state.

50 (8) The completion rates for apprenticeship programs,
51 high school credential programs, and career and technical
52 education programs.

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

55 (10) The average salary one year after completion of an
56 apprenticeship program, high school credential program, or



SB176 Engrossed

57 career and technical education program.

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

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

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

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

68 a. Average annual cost, including average financial
69 assistance.

70 b. Average annual cost, not including any financial
71 assistance.

72 c. Graduation rate.

73 d. Average salary after attending, but not completing,
74 a college or university program.

75 e. Average salary for individuals completing one of the
76 five most popular majors at a college or university.

77 f. Full-time enrollment.

78 g. Percentage of students not in default of student
79 loans.

80 h. Average total debt after graduation.

81 i. Percentage of students receiving federal loans.

82 j. Average monthly student loan payments for graduates.

83 k. Average monthly student loan payments for
84 nongraduates.



SB176 Engrossed

85 1. Percentage of students who return after their first
86 year.

87 m. Graduation, withdrawal, transfer, and current
88 enrollment rates for students within eight semesters after
89 enrollment.

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

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

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

100 (2) The 20 highest paying career and technical
101 education and certificate programs.

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

104 (4) The base pay, benefits, and average signing bonus
105 for enlistment in the military, along with the necessary Armed
106 Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) score by the
107 military branch.

108 Section 7. The commission shall issue an annual report
109 to the Legislature outlining the effectiveness of colleges,
110 universities, or any other postsecondary education
111 institutions accepting public funding in aligning their
112 curricula or programs with the state job market, including the



SB176 Engrossed

113 degree to which they contribute to filling the most in-demand
114 jobs in the state.

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

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

120 (1) Utilize and incorporate preexisting databases, such
121 as the United States College Scorecard, administered by the
122 federal department of education, as well as any other data
123 sets available to the commission.

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

126 Section 10. The commission shall adopt any necessary
127 rules to implement this act.

128 Section 11. This act shall become effective January 1,
129 2024, following its passage and approval by the Governor, or
130 its otherwise becoming law.

SB176 Engrossed



131
132
133 Senate

134 Read for the first time and referred06-Apr-23
135 to the Senate committee on Finance
136 and Taxation Education
137
138 Read for the second time and placed11-Apr-23
139 on the calendar:
140 0 amendments
141
142 Read for the third time and passed16-May-23
143 as amended
144 Yeas 34
145 Nays 0
146 Abstains 0
147
148
149
150
151

Patrick Harris,
Secretary.