DQA6HH-3

By Senators Orr, Albritton, Livingston, Butler, Allen,
Waggoner, Roberts, Jones

RFD: Finance and Taxation Education

First Read: 05-Apr-23

2023 Regular Session
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 workforce program that receives funding from the United States Department of Labor.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(2) A searchable database capable of comparing all of the following based on users' selections:
   a. Average annual cost, including average financial assistance.
   b. Average annual cost, not including any financial assistance.
   c. Graduation rate.
   d. Average salary after attending, but not completing, a college or university program.
   e. Average salary for individuals completing one of the five most popular majors at a college or university.
   f. Full-time enrollment.
   g. Percentage of students not in default of student loans.
   h. Average total debt after graduation.
   i. Percentage of students receiving federal loans.
   j. Average monthly student loan payments for graduates.
   k. Average monthly student loan payments for nongraduates.
   l. Percentage of students who return after their first year.
   m. Graduation, withdrawal, transfer, and current enrollment rates for students within eight semesters after enrollment.
(b) The database shall allow students to have the option of selecting a specific major or course of study at a specific institution, and be able to reasonably identify all of the information referenced in this section.

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

1. The 50 highest paying four-year degrees.
2. The 20 highest paying career and technical education and certificate programs.
3. The 25 most in-demand jobs in the state and their corresponding starting salaries and education requirements.
4. The base pay, benefits, and average signing bonus for enlistment in the military, along with the necessary Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) score by the military branch.

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

Section 8. The commission and the division shall enter into a memorandum of understanding to share any data or information necessary to comply with this act.
Section 9. To satisfy the requirements of this act, the commission may do either of the following:

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

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

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

Section 11. This act shall become effective January 1, 2024, following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.
SB176 Enrolled

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

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Patrick Harris,
Secretary.

SB176
Senate 16-May-23
I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and passed
the Senate, as amended.

Patrick Harris,
Secretary.

House of Representatives
Passed: 31-May-23

By: Senator Orr