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Assemblywomen Quigley, Wagner, Assemblymen Coughlin, Connors and
Diegnan

SYNOPSIS
Directs New Jersey Economic Development Authority and Commission on
Higher Education to promote the establishment of higher education and
business partnerships.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT
As introduced.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/7/2011)
AN ACT concerning higher education and business partnerships and
supplementing chapter 3B of Title 18A of the New Jersey
Statutes and P.L.1974, c.80 (C.34:1B-1 et seq.).

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
of New Jersey:

1. a. The Commission on Higher Education, in consultation
with the New Jersey Economic Development Authority and the
New Jersey Commission on Science and Technology, shall create
and maintain a database of the research and development efforts and
resources of institutions of higher education located in the State.
The purpose of the database shall be to provide business entities
with ready access to information on the resources and expertise
available at institutions of higher education. The database shall
catalog the assets of each participating institution of higher
education including, but not limited to, its: research and
development activities; scientific capabilities; physical facilities and
equipment; intellectual assets; technological infrastructure and
capabilities; and the expertise and specialized qualifications of its
faculty and staff. The database shall not include any assets that are
determined by the institution to be confidential, privileged, or
otherwise protected. The database shall be made available on the
website of the commission.

b. Each public institution of higher education shall submit a list
of its non-privileged and non-protected assets to the commission for
inclusion in the database established pursuant to subsection a. of
this section and shall annually provide updated information to the
commission.

c. An independent institution of higher education in the State
may elect to submit a list of its non-privileged and non-protected
assets to the commission for inclusion in the database established
pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

2. Each institution of higher education shall assess the abilities
of its staff to write and prepare grant proposals and shall develop
staff training in this area, in order to improve the institution’s
potential for the award of federal funding.

3. a. The New Jersey Economic Development Authority shall
serve as a liaison between the higher education and business
communities concerning issues and topics involving and relating to
each community’s assets, efforts, needs, and challenges. In this
capacity, the authority shall facilitate the exchange of information
and exploration of collaborations among higher education and
business entities that will spur innovation in the State.

b. The authority shall post on its website a link to the database
of the research and development efforts and resources of
institutions of higher education located in the State established by
the Commission on Higher Education pursuant to section 1 of
P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

4. The authority shall undertake activities that will maximize
the amount of federal funding awarded to institutions of higher
education including, but not limited to:
   a. an annual review of the availability of and application
      process for federal funding for institutions of higher education;
   b. evaluation of the procedures utilized by institutions of higher
      education to qualify for the available federal funding and the
development of recommendations on how the institutions can
improve their potential for the award of federal funding; and
   c. the ongoing identification and promotion of collaborations
      among institutions of higher education, and among institutions of
higher education and business entities, that would improve the
potential for the award and receipt of federal funding.

5. This act shall take effect on the 90th day after the date of
enactment.

STATEMENT

This bill implements some of the recommendations of the 2010
report of the New Jersey Policy Research Organization entitled
“Building Bridges Between Academic Institutions, Business and
Government to Bring Innovation to the Marketplace.” Under the
bill, the New Jersey Economic Development Authority will serve as
a liaison between the higher education and business communities
concerning issues and topics involving and relating to each
community’s assets, efforts, needs, and challenges. In this capacity,
the commission will facilitate the exchange of information and
exploration of collaborations among higher education and business
entities that will spur innovation in the State. The bill also directs
the authority to undertake certain activities that will maximize the
amount of federal funding awarded to institutions of higher
education.

Under the bill, the Commission on Higher Education, in
consultation with the New Jersey Economic Development Authority
and the New Jersey Commission on Science and Technology, must
create and maintain a database of the research and development
efforts and resources of institutions of higher education located in
the State. The purpose of the database is to provide business
entities with ready access to information on the resources and
expertise available at institutions of higher education. The bill
requires each public institution of higher education to submit a list
of its non-privileged and non-protected assets to the commission for
inclusion in the database and to annually provide updated information to the commission. An independent institution of higher education in the State may elect to submit a list of its non-privileged and non-protected assets to the commission for inclusion in the database.

The bill requires each institution of higher education to assess the abilities of its staff to write and prepare grant proposals and to develop staff training in this area, in order to improve the institution’s potential for the award of federal funding.