

**SB176 ENROLLED**



1 DQA6HH-3  
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 Enrolled

1 Enrolled, An Act,

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

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

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

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

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

21 (2) DIVISION. The Workforce Development Division of the  
22 Department of Commerce that administers or oversees the  
23 state's workforce programs, state job board, or any type of  
24 workforce program that receives funding from the United States  
25 Department of Labor.

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

28 (1) The 50 most in-demand jobs in the state and their



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29 corresponding starting salaries and education level  
30 requirements.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

54 Section 5. (a) The commission shall create an  
55 interactive online tool, known as the Student Horizon  
56 Database, to publish and provide to individuals information



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57 including, but not limited to, the following:

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

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

63 a. Average annual cost, including average financial  
64 assistance.

65 b. Average annual cost, not including any financial  
66 assistance.

67 c. Graduation rate.

68 d. Average salary after attending, but not completing,  
69 a college or university program.

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

72 f. Full-time enrollment.

73 g. Percentage of students not in default of student  
74 loans.

75 h. Average total debt after graduation.

76 i. Percentage of students receiving federal loans.

77 j. Average monthly student loan payments for graduates.

78 k. Average monthly student loan payments for  
79 nongraduates.

80 l. Percentage of students who return after their first  
81 year.

82 m. Graduation, withdrawal, transfer, and current  
83 enrollment rates for students within eight semesters after  
84 enrollment.



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

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

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

95 (2) The 20 highest paying career and technical  
96 education and certificate programs.

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

99 (4) The base pay, benefits, and average signing bonus  
100 for enlistment in the military, along with the necessary Armed  
101 Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) score by the  
102 military branch.

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

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



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

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

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

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

123           Section 11. This act shall become effective January 1,  
124 2024, following its passage and approval by the Governor, or  
125 its otherwise becoming law.



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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

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

Patrick Harris,  
Secretary.

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House of Representatives  
Passed: 31-May-23

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By: Senator Orr