

SB176 INTRODUCED



1 DQA6HH-1
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



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

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 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 Division of the Department of Commerce to share data and information as necessary to comply with this act.



SB176 INTRODUCED

29 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

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

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

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

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

45 (3) MAJOR COLLEGES. The four largest public four-year
46 institutions of higher education in the state based on average
47 annual student enrollment.

48 (4) VOCATIONAL SCHOOL. Any type of vocational,
49 technical, or trade school that prepares individuals to engage
50 in the workforce as a technician or participate in a trade or
51 craft.

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

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



SB176 INTRODUCED

57 (2) The average cost for all major colleges and
58 vocational schools in the state.

59 (3) The average monthly student loan payment for
60 individuals attending major colleges and vocational schools in
61 the state, by institution.

62 (4) The average three-year student loan default rate
63 for all major colleges and vocational schools in the state.

64 (5) The average total student loan debt for graduates
65 of major colleges, both for four-year degrees and graduate
66 programs.

67 (6) The average four-year graduation rate for all major
68 colleges in the state.

69 (7) The average graduation rate for all major
70 vocational schools in the state.

71 (8) The completion rates for apprenticeship programs,
72 high school credential programs, career and technical
73 education programs, and military first-term enlistments.

74 (9) The share of college graduates working in an
75 occupation that does not require a college degree, by major.

76 (10) The average starting salary for individuals
77 graduating from a major college.

78 (11) The average starting salary for individuals who
79 have completed an apprenticeship program, high school
80 credential program, or career and technical education program.

81 (12) The base pay for newly enlisted service members.

82 (13) The average starting salary for individuals
83 graduating from a vocational school in the state.

84 Section 5. (a) The commission shall create an



SB176 INTRODUCED

85 interactive online tool, known as the Student Horizon
86 Database, to publish and provide to individuals information
87 including, but not limited to, the following:

88 (1) The 50 most popular major colleges, vocational
89 schools, and career and technical education programs in the
90 state based on information collected in Section 4.

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

93 a. Average annual cost, including average financial
94 assistance.

95 b. Average annual cost, not including any financial
96 assistance.

97 c. Graduation rate.

98 d. Average salary after attending.

99 e. Average salary for individuals completing one of the
100 five most popular majors at a major college.

101 f. Full-time enrollment.

102 g. Percentage of students not in default of student
103 loans.

104 h. Average total debt after graduation.

105 i. Percentage of students receiving federal loans.

106 j. Average monthly student loan payments for graduates.

107 k. Average monthly student loan payments for
108 non-graduates.

109 l. Percentage of students who return after their first
110 year.

111 m. Graduation, withdrawal, transfer, and current
112 enrollment rates for students within eight semesters after



SB176 INTRODUCED

113 enrollment.

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

118 Section 6. On or before October 31, 2023, and each
119 October thereafter, the commission shall publish and
120 distribute to high school students a Student Graduate Horizon
121 Scorecard that shall contain all of the following data,
122 collected and aggregated pursuant to this act:

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

124 (2) The 20 highest paying career and technical
125 education and certificate programs.

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

128 (4) The base pay and benefits for enlistment in the
129 military, along with the necessary Armed Services Vocational
130 Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) score by military branch and average
131 signing bonus.

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

139 Section 8. The commission and the division shall enter
140 into a memorandum of understanding to share any data or



SB176 INTRODUCED

141 information necessary to comply with this act.

142 Section 9. To satisfy the requirements of this act, the
143 commission may do any of the following:

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

148 (2) Compel major colleges and vocational schools to
149 collect and provide information or data as necessary.

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

152 Section 11. This act shall become effective January 1,
153 2024, following its passage and approval by the Governor, or
154 its otherwise becoming law.