



**VETO MESSAGE:** No

**GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:** Yes

**FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:**

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**REPORTS:** No

**HEARINGS:** No

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:** Yes

"Christie signs bill inspired by 'Snooki' to cap speaker fees," Associated Press State Wire: New Jersey, May 8, 2017

"Christie signs 'Snooki bill' capping New Jersey college speaking fees," The Times, May 9, 2017

"Governor signs 'Snooki bill'" The Star-Ledger, May 9, 2017

"'Snooki bill' OK'd, not pension spinoff - Christie wants adjustments to measure covering fund for police and firefighters," The Record, May 9, 2017

RWH/JA

P.L.2017, CHAPTER 61, *approved May 8, 2017*  
Senate, No. 2355 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning <sup>1</sup>**【commencement】**<sup>1</sup> speakers at public  
2 institutions of higher education and supplementing chapter 3B of  
3 Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

4

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

7

8 1. A public institution of higher education shall not use State  
9 funds <sup>1</sup>in excess of \$10,000<sup>1</sup> to pay an individual <sup>1</sup>**【to deliver】** for<sup>1</sup>  
10 any speaking engagement at or hosted by the institution, including<sup>1</sup>  
11 the commencement address at any graduation ceremony conducted  
12 by the institution. In the event that an institution violates the  
13 provisions of this section, the State Treasurer shall debit from the  
14 institution's State operating aid an amount equal to the amount paid  
15 by the institution to the <sup>1</sup>**【commencement】**<sup>1</sup> speaker.

16

17 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

18

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20

21

22 Prohibits public institution of higher education from using State  
23 funds in excess of \$10,000 to pay fee of commencement and other  
24 speakers.

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **【thus】** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Senate SHI committee amendments adopted June 20, 2016.

**SENATE, No. 2355**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**217th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED JUNE 9, 2016

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Prohibits a public institution of higher education from using State funds to pay a commencement speaker.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



S2355 CUNNINGHAM

2

1 AN ACT concerning commencement speakers at public institutions  
2 of higher education and supplementing chapter 3B of Title 18A  
3 of the New Jersey Statutes.

4

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

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8 1. A public institution of higher education shall not use State  
9 funds to pay an individual to deliver the commencement address at  
10 any graduation ceremony conducted by the institution. In the event  
11 that an institution violates the provisions of this section, the State  
12 Treasurer shall debit from the institution's State operating aid an  
13 amount equal to the amount paid by the institution to the  
14 commencement speaker.

15

16 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

17

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19

STATEMENT

20

21 This bill prohibits a public institution of higher education from  
22 using State funds to pay an individual to deliver the commencement  
23 address at any graduation ceremony conducted by the institution. In  
24 the event that an institution violates the provisions of the bill, the  
25 State Treasurer will debit from the institution's State operating aid  
26 an amount equal to the amount paid by the institution to the  
27 commencement speaker.

28

29 Many public institutions of higher education in the State offer  
30 honorary degrees to commencement speakers in lieu of monetary  
31 compensation. The purpose of this bill is to eliminate the use of  
32 State funds to pay these individuals in light of the reduction in State  
33 funding to public institutions of higher education and increase in  
tuition and fees at these institutions in recent years.

ASSEMBLY HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

**SENATE, No. 2355**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: FEBRUARY 27, 2017

The Assembly Higher Education Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2355 (1R).

This bill prohibits a public institution of higher education from using State funds in excess of \$10,000 to pay an individual for any speaking engagement at or hosted by the institution, including the institution's commencement address. In the event that an institution violates the bill's provisions, the State Treasurer is directed to debit from the institution's State operating aid an amount equal to the amount paid by the institution to the speaker.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 714, which was amended and reported by the committee on this same date.

# SENATE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **SENATE, No. 2355**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JUNE 20, 2016

The Senate Higher Education Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2355 with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill prohibits a public institution of higher education from using State funds in excess of \$10,000 to pay an individual for any speaking engagement at or hosted by the institution, including the institution's commencement address. In the event that an institution violates the bill's provisions, the State Treasurer is directed to debit from the institution's State operating aid an amount equal to the amount paid by the institution to the speaker.

The committee amended the bill to apply the bill's provisions to all speaking engagements at or hosted by the public institution of higher education, including commencements. As introduced, the bill applied to only commencements. The committee also amended the bill to provide that the institution is prohibited from using State funds in excess of \$10,000 to pay a speaker fee. The bill as introduced prohibited the use of any State funds to pay a fee for a commencement speaker.

**ASSEMBLY, No. 714**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**217th LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2016 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman JOHN DIMAIO**

**District 23 (Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren)**

**Assemblyman PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.**

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman Phoebus and Assemblyman Space**

**SYNOPSIS**

Prohibits a public institution of higher education from using State funds to pay a commencement speaker.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 4/8/2016)**



1 AN ACT concerning commencement speakers at public institutions  
2 of higher education and supplementing chapter 3B of Title 18A  
3 of the New Jersey Statutes.

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5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
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8 1. A public institution of higher education shall not use State  
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12 Treasurer shall debit from the institution's State operating aid an  
13 amount equal to the amount paid by the institution to the  
14 commencement speaker.

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16 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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19 STATEMENT

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21 This bill prohibits a public institution of higher education from  
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24 the event that an institution violates the provisions of the bill, the  
25 State Treasurer will debit from the institution's State operating aid  
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28 Many public institutions of higher education in the State offer  
29 honorary degrees to commencement speakers in lieu of monetary  
30 compensation. The purpose of this bill is to eliminate the use of  
31 State funds to pay these individuals in light of the reduction in State  
32 funding to public institutions of higher education and increase in  
33 tuition and fees at these institutions in recent years.

# ASSEMBLY HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **ASSEMBLY, No. 714**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: FEBRUARY 27, 2017

The Assembly Higher Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 714 with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill prohibits a public institution of higher education from using State funds in excess of \$10,000 to pay an individual for any speaking engagement at or hosted by the institution, including the institution's commencement address. In the event that an institution violates the provisions of the bill, the State Treasurer is directed to debit from the institution's State operating aid an amount equal to the amount paid by the institution to the speaker.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 2355 (1R), which was also reported by the committee on this same date.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2016-2017 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The amendments:

- apply the bill's provisions to all speaking engagements at or hosted by the public institution of higher education. As introduced, the bill applied only to commencement speakers; and
- provide that the institution is prohibited from using State funds in excess of \$10,000 to pay a speaker fee. As introduced, the bill prohibited the use of any State funds to pay a fee for a commencement speaker.

## Governor Christie Takes Action On Pending Legislation

Monday, May 8, 2017 Tags: [Other](#)



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Trenton, NJ - Governor Chris Christie today announced that he has taken action on the following pending legislation:

### **BILL SIGNINGS:**

- S-2355/A-714 (Cunningham/DiMaio) – STATEMENT UPON SIGNING** - Prohibits public institution of higher education from using State funds in excess of \$10,000 to pay fee of commencement and other speakers
- S-2398/A-3879 (Bateman, Allen, Greenstein, Singleton/Ciattarelli, Auth, Space)** - Requires school district to adopt policy allowing students in grades 9 through 12 who participate in certain interscholastic extracurricular activities to earn varsity letter
- S-2538/A-4204 (Sweeney, Singer, Vitale, Sarlo/Mazzeo, Houghtaling, Downey, Andrzejczak, Land)** - Requires Office of Emergency Management to establish county storm preparedness funding program
- S-2562/A-4244 (Weinberg, Cardinale/Vainieri Huttie, Caride, Pintor Marin, Auth, McKnight)** - Requires DCF and DHS to study predatory alienation and its effects on young adults and senior citizens
- S-2915/A-4560 (Ruiz, Rice/Pintor Marin)** - Adjusts reference to population for library director position in unclassified civil service
- S-2997/A-4597 (Smith, Bateman/Zwicker, Singleton, Muoio)** - Appropriates \$59,532,000 from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues for State acquisition of lands for recreation and conservation purposes, including Blue Acres projects, and capital and park development projects
- SJR-89/AJR-111 (Vitale, Madden/Quijano, Webber, DiMaio, McKnight)** - Designates May of each year as "Prader-Willi Syndrome Awareness Month" in New Jersey

### **BILL VETOED:**

- S-3040/A-99 (Sweeney, T. Kean/Prieto, Sumter, Schaer, Greenwald, Rible, Dancer) – CONDITIONAL** - Transfers management of PFRS to Board of Trustees of PFRS

Press Contact:  
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609-777-2600



