

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 233

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

212th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 4, 2007

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT

District 6 (Camden)

Assemblyman CRAIG A. STANLEY

District 28 (Essex)

Assemblyman JIM WHELAN

District 2 (Atlantic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Giblin, Assemblywoman Oliver, Assemblymen Malone, Dancer, Chatzidakis, Bodine, Merkt, Assemblywoman McHose, Assemblymen Gregg, Greenwald, Bateman, Vas, Baroni, Bramnick and Munoz

SYNOPSIS

Urges the Board of Governors of Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey to reconsider its recent decision to eliminate certain athletic teams.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION urging Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey to reconsider its recent decision to eliminate certain athletic teams.

**WHEREAS,** On July 14, 2006, the Board of Governors of Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey approved a FY 2006-2007 budget of \$1.63 billion, which provided for the elimination of six Olympic sport teams as of June 2007; and

**WHEREAS,** The teams selected for elimination include lightweight and heavyweight men's crew, men's swimming and diving, men's tennis, and men's and women's fencing; and

**WHEREAS,** The athletes who participate on these teams are scholar-athletes in the truest sense, often performing in front of sparse crowds for pure love of competition, and consistently achieving some of the highest grade point averages and graduation rates of any group of students at Rutgers University; and

**WHEREAS,** Men's lightweight and heavyweight crew, men's swimming and diving, men's tennis, and men's and women's fencing teams are among the highest-performing athletic teams at Rutgers University, having produced conference champions, National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) medalists, All-Americans, and Olympians, who have represented our great country; and

**WHEREAS,** The cost savings attributable to the elimination of these athletic teams do not justify the negative impact the elimination would have on the student-athletes who participate in these programs; and

**WHEREAS,** Eliminating lightweight and heavyweight men's crew, men's swimming and diving, men's tennis, and men's and women's fencing would force the 121 student-athletes currently participating on these teams to either forgo this aspect of their overall educational experience or transfer to other schools to continue participation in their sport of choice; and

**WHEREAS,** The elimination of these programs at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey will have a negative impact on the approximately 12,000 high school students throughout the State who are engaged in fencing, swimming, rowing, and tennis, and will

eliminate Rutgers University as a university of choice for those high school athletes who wish to compete at the highest intercollegiate level as NCAA Division I athletes, and once these athletic teams are eliminated, the likelihood of them being reinstated at the varsity level is remote; and

**WHEREAS,** It is in the best interest of the State to urge the Board of Governors of Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey to reconsider its recent decision to eliminate lightweight and heavyweight men's crew, men's swimming and diving, men's tennis, and men's and women's fencing, which elimination will have a tremendous negative impact on the hard-working and gifted student-athletes currently participating in those sports, and will result in the future loss to the Rutgers community of academically-talented prospective students; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. This House urges the Board of Governors of Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey to reconsider its recent decision to eliminate lightweight and heavyweight men's crew, men's swimming and diving, men's tennis, and men's and women's fencing from among the sports offered at the varsity level at Rutgers University.

2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk thereof, shall be transmitted to the Board of Governors, President, and Athletic Director of Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.

#### STATEMENT

This Assembly resolution urges the Board of Governors of Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey to reconsider its recent decision to eliminate six sports teams. Under a FY 2006-2007 budget approved by the board, lightweight and heavyweight men's crew, men's swimming and diving, men's tennis, and men's and women's fencing would be eliminated as sports offered at the varsity level by June 2007.

The athletes who participate on these teams are scholar-athletes in the truest sense, often performing in front of sparse crowds for pure love of competition, and consistently

achieving some of the highest grade point averages and graduation rates of any group of students at Rutgers University. The elimination of these sport teams will have a tremendous negative impact on the hard-working and gifted student-athletes currently participating in those sports, and will result in the future loss to the Rutgers community of academically-talented prospective students.