



The Commission on
INDEPENDENT
Colleges & Universities
in New York

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Memorandum of Support

A.8469 (Zebrowski)/ S.5888-A (Stavisky)

The Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (CICU) supports A.8469/ S.5888-A which would allow peace officers at designated institutions of higher education to be considered “qualified agencies” for the purposes of fingerprinting and obtaining criminal history records from those in their custody.

CICU represents more than 100 private, not-for-profit colleges and universities in New York State who educate almost 500,000 students annually. From our membership, the University of Rochester, Cornell University, Ithaca College, Syracuse University, and Canisius College have state designated peace officers on their campuses. This legislation would allow these peace officers to be considered “qualified agencies” under the law, allowing them to fingerprint those in their custody and giving them the ability to access criminal history records. Receiving criminal history information from fingerprints and being able to run criminal histories gives our institutions the ability to conduct complete background investigations and enables them to ensure the safety of all students. Currently, designated peace officers at institutions have no way to determine a person’s prior history when they are in their custody. This legislation will better serve victims and give officers the tools to better determine the appropriate criminal charges for those who have been arrested, all while affording full protections to the rights of the accused.

For these reasons the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities supports this legislation and urges the legislature to pass it.