

CHAPTER 282

AN ACT concerning student financial aid and amending N.J.S.18A:71B-2.

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

1. N.J.S.18A:71B-2 is amended to read as follows:

Student eligibility.

18A:71B-2. a. A student who is enrolled in an eligible institution and who is eligible for and receives any form of student financial aid through a program administered by the State under this chapter shall be considered to remain domiciled in New Jersey and eligible for continued financial assistance notwithstanding the fact that the student is financially dependent upon the student's parents or guardians and that the parents or guardians change their domicile to another State.

b. A person shall not be awarded financial aid under this chapter unless the person has been a resident of this State for a period of not less than 12 months immediately prior to receiving the financial aid.

c. A person shall not be awarded student financial aid under this chapter unless the person is a United States citizen or eligible noncitizen, as determined under 20 U.S.C.s.1091. The authority shall determine whether persons who were eligible noncitizens prior to the effective date of the "Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996," Pub.L.104-193, but not after that date, shall continue to be eligible for student financial aid under this chapter.

d. A person who is incarcerated shall be eligible for student financial aid under this chapter provided that:

(1) the person had been a resident of this State for a period of not less than 12 months immediately prior to the date of incarceration;

(2) the person is a State-sentenced inmate; and

(3) the person receives approval from the Department of Corrections to enroll in an eligible institution.

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved January 9, 2020.