

[First Reprint]

## **ASSEMBLY, No. 1181**

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

## **220th LEGISLATURE**

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY**

**District 27 (Essex and Morris)**

**Assemblywoman BRITNEE N. TIMBERLAKE**

**District 34 (Essex and Passaic)**

**Assemblyman WILLIAM F. MOEN, JR.**

**District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

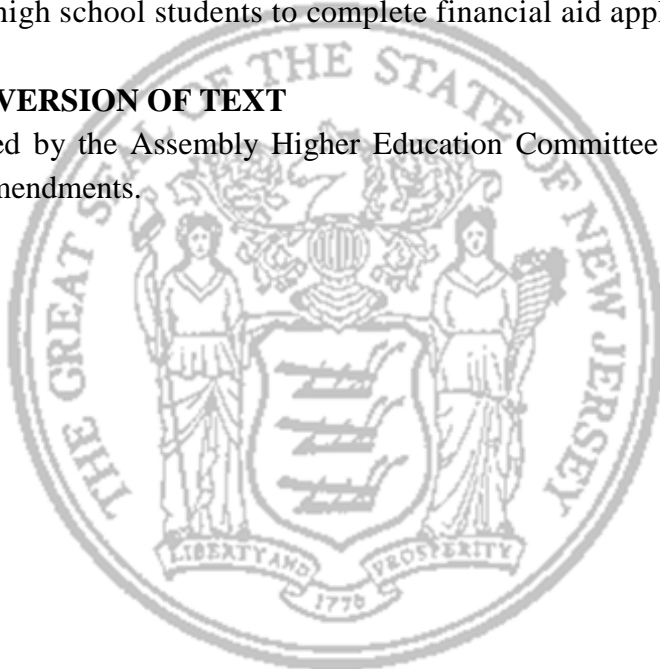
**Assemblywomen Quijano, Reynolds-Jackson, Pintor Marin, McKnight, Sumter, Assemblymen Conaway, Atkins, Wimberly, Assemblywoman Jimenez and Assemblyman Mejia**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires high school students to complete financial aid applications.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Assembly Higher Education Committee on March 14, 2022, with amendments.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/20/2022)**

1 AN ACT concerning graduation requirements for high school  
2 students <sup>1</sup>and supplementing chapter 7C of Title 18A of the  
3 New Jersey Statutes<sup>1</sup>.

4  
5 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:

7  
8 1. a. Beginning with the 2022-2023 grade 11 class, <sup>1</sup>and for  
9 two school years thereafter,<sup>1</sup> the State Board of Education shall  
10 require that the local graduation requirements adopted by a board of  
11 education or a board of trustees of a charter school include the  
12 requirement that a student<sup>1</sup>, and the student's parent or guardian, if  
13 applicable,<sup>1</sup> complete and submit a financial aid application in a  
14 form prescribed by the Higher Education Student Assistance  
15 Authority <sup>1</sup>as a prerequisite to the student receiving a high school  
16 diploma from a public high school or charter school unless a waiver  
17 is submitted to the school district or charter school as set forth in  
18 subsection b. of this section<sup>1</sup>.

19 b. A student shall be exempt from the <sup>1</sup>graduation<sup>1</sup>  
20 requirement if the student <sup>1</sup>or the student's parent or guardian<sup>1</sup>  
21 submits to the school district <sup>1</sup>or charter school<sup>1</sup>:

22 (1) a <sup>1</sup>waiver<sup>1</sup> form signed by the parent or guardian, or by the  
23 student if <sup>1</sup>he<sup>1</sup> the student<sup>1</sup> is at least 18 years of age, requesting  
24 the exemption <sup>1</sup>of the requirement<sup>1</sup>; or

25 (2) <sup>1</sup>a form signed by the school counselor authorizing the  
26 exemption for good cause as defined by the State board<sup>1</sup> if the  
27 student is under 18 years of age and a form signed by the parent or  
28 guardian cannot be reasonably obtained, the student's school  
29 counselor may authorize the waiver as permitted by regulations  
30 promulgated by the Commissioner of Education<sup>1</sup>.

31 c. The <sup>1</sup>Commissioner of Education<sup>1</sup> Executive Director of  
32 the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority<sup>1</sup>, in consultation  
33 with the <sup>1</sup>Executive Director of the Higher Education Student  
34 Assistance Authority<sup>1</sup> Commissioner of Education<sup>1</sup>, shall provide a  
35 list of resources for school districts, parents, and students that  
36 include instructions on how to complete a financial aid application  
37 prescribed by the authority. The executive director of the authority  
38 shall make available such resources as are necessary directly to  
39 school counselors or other school employees <sup>1</sup>who assist students  
40 in completing the financial aid application<sup>1</sup> who shall share the  
41 information with students and with the students' parents or  
42 guardians<sup>1</sup>.

43 d. Each school district shall annually notify students and the

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>Assembly AHI committee amendments adopted March 14, 2022.

1 parents or guardians of the requirement established pursuant to this  
2 section.

3 e. <sup>1</sup>【The Department of Education shall verify which students  
4 have met the requirement established pursuant to this section with  
5 the authority. The department shall include that information in the  
6 student's record.

7 f. The Department of Education shall include the number of  
8 students who have met the requirement established pursuant to this  
9 section in the School Report Card issued pursuant to P.L.1995,  
10 c.235 (C.18A:7E-1 et seq.).】

11 No adverse action shall be taken by a board of education or a  
12 board of trustees of a charter school against any student who is  
13 exempted from the requirement to complete and submit a financial  
14 aid application pursuant to subsection b. of this section.

15 f. Nothing in this act shall be construed as requiring school  
16 counselors, or any other school employee, to assist students in  
17 completing the financial aid application. Nothing in this act shall  
18 be construed as creating a private right of action against the school  
19 district or the State upon compliance or noncompliance with the  
20 provisions of this act.<sup>1</sup>

21

22 2. This act shall take effect immediately.