

[Second 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:

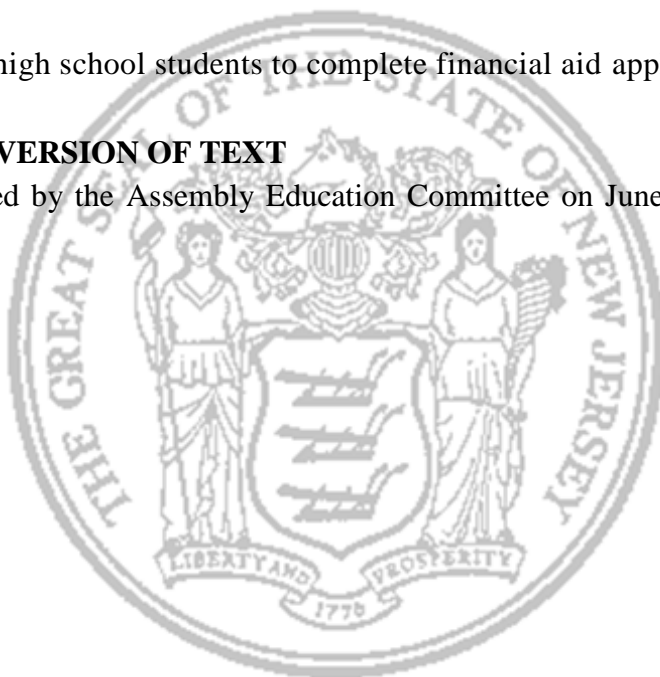
Assemblywomen Quijano, Reynolds-Jackson, Pintor Marin, McKnight, Sumter, Assemblymen Conaway, Atkins, Wimberly, Assemblywoman Jimenez, Assemblymen Mejia, McKeon, Assemblywomen Mosquera and Lopez

SYNOPSIS

Requires high school students to complete financial aid applications.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Education Committee on June 8, 2023, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/30/2023)

1 AN ACT concerning graduation requirements for high school
 2 students ¹~~and supplementing chapter 7C of Title 18A of the~~
 3 New Jersey Statutes¹.

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, ¹~~and for~~
 9 ~~two school years thereafter,~~¹ 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 student¹, ~~and the student's parent or guardian, if~~
 13 ~~applicable,~~¹ complete and submit a financial aid application in a
 14 form prescribed by the Higher Education Student Assistance
 15 Authority ¹~~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~~¹.

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

22 (1) a ¹~~waiver~~¹ form signed by the parent or guardian, or by the
 23 student if ¹~~he~~¹ the student¹ is at least 18 years of age, requesting
 24 the exemption ¹~~of the requirement~~¹; or

25 (2) ¹~~a form signed by the school counselor authorizing the~~
 26 ~~exemption for good cause as defined by the State board~~ ¹~~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~~ ²~~Commissioner of Education~~¹ State Board of
 31 Education pursuant to subsection h. of this section².

32 c. The ¹~~Commissioner of Education~~ Executive Director of
 33 the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority¹, in consultation
 34 with the ¹~~Executive Director of the Higher Education Student~~
 35 ~~Assistance Authority~~ Commissioner of Education¹, shall provide
 36 ²~~a list of~~² resources for school districts, parents, and students that
 37 include instructions on how to complete a financial aid application
 38 prescribed by the authority. ²~~The resources shall include webinars,~~
 39 ~~presentations, guidance documents, and a list of available State and~~
 40 ~~federal resources.~~² The executive director of the authority shall
 41 make available such resources as are necessary directly to school
 42 counselors or other school employees ¹~~who assist students in~~
 43 ~~completing the financial aid application~~ ~~who shall share 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:

¹Assembly AHI committee amendments adopted March 14, 2022.

²Assembly AED committee amendments adopted June 8, 2023.

1 information with students and with the students' parents or
2 guardians¹.

3 d. Each school district shall annually notify students and the
4 parents or guardians of the requirement established pursuant to this
5 section.

6 e. ¹**【The Department of Education shall verify which students**
7 **have met the requirement established pursuant to this section with**
8 **the authority. The department shall include that information in the**
9 **student's record.**

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

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

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

24 ²g. The Executive Director of the Higher Education Student
25 Assistance Authority shall make the resources listed in subsection c.
26 of this section available to public four year institutions of higher
27 education in order to facilitate the delivery of technical assistance to
28 area high schools.

29 h. The State Board of Education shall adopt, pursuant to the
30 Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
31 seq.), rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of
32 this act.²

33

34 2. This act shall take effect immediately.