

ASSEMBLY, No. 3681

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 21, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes New Jersey Educator Scholarship Program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT establishing the New Jersey Educator Scholarship
2 Program, and supplementing chapter 6 of Title 18A of the New
3 Jersey Statutes.

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

7
8 1. There is established in the Department of Education the New
9 Jersey Educator Scholarship Program. The purpose of the program
10 shall be to provide incentives for high-achieving students to pursue
11 careers in education.

12 a. Under the program, the department shall award 50
13 scholarships annually to eligible recipients enrolled in an institution
14 of higher education in the State. Students shall receive a tuition
15 waiver for each semester of study and be awarded a stipend in the
16 amount of \$5,000 annually.

17 b. A student shall be eligible to receive a stipend and tuition
18 waiver under the program for a maximum of four academic years,
19 or until receipt of a bachelor's degree and completion of an
20 educator preparation program, whichever occurs first.

21 c. Within the first five full school years immediately following
22 receipt of a bachelor's degree and completion of an educator
23 preparation program, a student who received a scholarship under the
24 program shall seek and accept full time employment as a teaching
25 staff member with a public school district in the State of New
26 Jersey for no less than three full school years, during which time the
27 student shall receive mentoring coordinated by the department. For
28 the purposes of fulfilling the requirements of this subsection, the
29 three years of employment with a public school district may be
30 nonconsecutive and may be divided between multiple public school
31 districts in the State of New Jersey. A student who fails to meet the
32 requirements of this subsection shall be subject to the provisions of
33 paragraph (3) of subsection d. of section 2 of this act.

34 d. Nothing in this section shall be construed to exempt a
35 student from meeting teacher certification requirements in
36 accordance with rules and regulations promulgated by the State
37 Board of Education.

38
39 2. a. In order to be eligible for a scholarship under the program,
40 a student shall:

41 (1) be a United States citizen or permanent resident alien;

42 (2) be a resident of the State of New Jersey; and

43 (3) be enrolled full time in an approved program of study at an
44 institution of higher education in the State.

45 b. The Department of Education may establish additional
46 eligibility requirements and minimum qualifications for the
47 program, as well as a process for assessing eligible individuals for
48 consideration for appointment as a student.

49 c. A student's scholarship shall remain in effect only during

1 such period as the student achieves satisfactory academic progress
2 as defined by the institution and continues to meet the eligibility
3 requirements and minimum qualifications established pursuant to
4 subsections a. and b. of this section.

5 d. (1) The scholarship shall not remain in effect for a student
6 who is dismissed from the institution of higher education or
7 educator preparation program for academic or disciplinary reasons,
8 is disqualified from employment by a school district due to the
9 detection of criminal history record information pursuant to section
10 1 of P.L.1986, c.116 (C.18A:6-7.1), or otherwise becomes ineligible
11 to receive a certificate of eligibility with advanced standing from
12 the Board of Examiners, and the student shall be required to repay
13 to the department in full the amount of any stipend and the value of
14 any tuition waiver received.

15 (2) The scholarship shall not remain in effect for a student who
16 does not obtain a bachelor's degree within the first four years of the
17 scholarship or who withdraws from an approved program of study
18 due to the student's illness, the illness of a member of the student's
19 immediate family, or a family emergency but the student shall not
20 be required to repay to the department the amount of any stipend or
21 the value of any tuition waiver received.

22 (3) A student who received a scholarship under the program
23 who does not complete three full years of employment as a teaching
24 staff member with a public school district in the State of New
25 Jersey within five years of receiving a bachelor's degree and
26 completing an educator preparation program shall repay to the
27 department the amount of any stipend and the value of any tuition
28 waiver received under the scholarship program, prorated against the
29 duration of employment with a public school district in the State as
30 follows: a student who completes two full years of employment
31 shall repay one-third of the amount of any financial support
32 received, a student who completes one full year of employment
33 shall repay two-thirds of the amount of any financial support
34 received, and a student who fails to complete a full year of
35 employment shall repay the full amount of any financial support
36 received.

37 (4) A student who fails to make repayment to the department
38 pursuant to this subsection who is the holder of any certification
39 issued by the Board of Examiners shall be subject to disciplinary
40 action by the board which may include, but need not be limited to,
41 the revocation or suspension of the certification until such time as
42 repayment is made to the department.

43
44 3. The State shall appropriate funds in each fiscal year to
45 finance the stipends provided to students pursuant to section 1 of
46 P.L. , c. (C.)(pending before the Legislature as this bill), in
47 such sums as may be necessary, and to effectuate the purposes of
48 the program established in accordance with section 1 of
49 P.L. , c. (C.)(pending before the Legislature as this bill).

1 4. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
2 the first full academic year following the date of enactment.

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STATEMENT

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7 This bill establishes the New Jersey Educator Scholarship
8 Program in the Department of Education. The purpose of the
9 scholarship program is to provide incentives for high-achieving
10 students to pursue careers in education.

11 Scholarships will be awarded by the department to 50 students
12 enrolled in approved programs of study at an institution of higher
13 education within the State. Each student will receive a tuition
14 waiver for each semester of study and an annual stipend of \$5,000
15 for four years of study or until the student receives a bachelor's
16 degree and completes an educator preparation program, whichever
17 occurs first. Within the first five full years after graduation, the
18 student is required to seek and accept full time employment as a
19 teaching staff member with a public school district in the State and
20 the student will serve in employment with a public school district in
21 the State for no less than three full school years, during which time
22 they will receive mentoring to aid the student in furthering a career
23 in education.

24 In order to be eligible for a scholarship under the program, a
25 student is required to be a United States citizen or permanent
26 resident alien, a resident of the State of New Jersey, and enrolled in
27 an approved program of study at an institution of higher education
28 in the State. The department may establish additional eligibility
29 requirements and minimum qualifications, and will determine an
30 application and evaluation process for scholarship candidates. A
31 student's scholarship will remain in effect provided that the student
32 achieves satisfactory academic progress and continues to meet
33 eligibility requirements. The scholarship will not remain in effect
34 for a student who: is dismissed from the program of study for
35 academic or disciplinary reasons, is disqualified from employment
36 by a school district due to the detection of criminal history record
37 information under current law, becomes ineligible to receive a
38 certificate of eligibility with advanced standing for any other
39 reason, does not receive a degree within the first four years of the
40 scholarship, withdraws from the program of study due to illness or a
41 family emergency, or does not complete the required three full
42 years of employment in a public school district within five years of
43 receiving a bachelor's degree. Under certain circumstances, a
44 student whose scholarship has been terminated may be required to
45 repay to the Department of Education all or part of the amount of
46 any stipend and the value of any tuition waiver received during the
47 scholarship.