

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 3681

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 21, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblyman BENJIE E. WIMBERLY

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Co-Sponsored by:

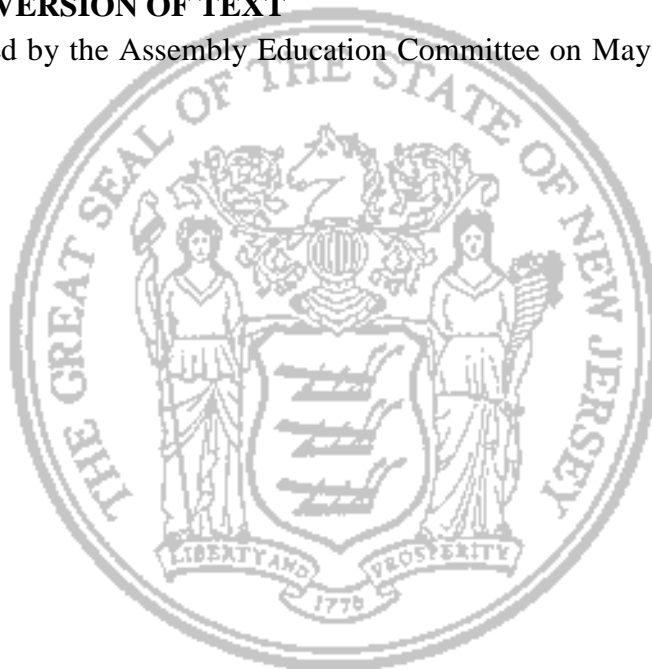
Assemblyman Benson, Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson and McKnight

SYNOPSIS

Establishes New Jersey Educator Scholarship Program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Education Committee on May 19, 2022, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/23/2023)

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 ¹Higher Education Student
 9 Assistance Authority, in coordination with the¹ Department of
 10 Education ^{1, 1} the New Jersey Educator Scholarship Program. The
 11 purpose of the program shall be to provide incentives for ¹**[high-**
 12 **achieving]**¹ students to pursue careers in education.

13 a. Under the program, the ¹**[department]** authority¹ shall award
 14 50 scholarships annually to eligible recipients enrolled in ¹**[an]** a
 15 public¹ institution of higher education in the State. Students shall
 16 receive a ¹**[tuition waiver]** scholarship in an amount up to the amount
 17 of tuition¹ for each semester of study ¹**[and be awarded]** plus¹ a
 18 stipend in the amount of \$5,000 annually.

19 b. A student shall be eligible to receive a stipend and ¹**[tuition**
 20 **waiver]** scholarship¹ under the program for a maximum of four
 21 academic years, or until receipt of a bachelor's degree and completion
 22 of an educator preparation program, whichever occurs first.

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

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

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

42 (1) be a United States citizen ¹**[or]** ¹ permanent resident alien ^{1, 2}
 43 or any student eligible to complete the New Jersey Alternative
 44 Financial Aid Application¹;

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 AED committee amendments adopted May 19, 2022.

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

2 (3) be enrolled full time in an approved program of study at ¹an
3 a public¹ institution of higher education in the State.

4 b. The ¹Higher Education Student Assistance Authority, in
5 coordination with the¹ Department of Education ¹,¹ may establish
6 additional eligibility requirements and minimum qualifications for the
7 program, ¹including limiting the program to students seeking degrees
8 in math, science, special education, world languages, bilingual
9 education, or other subjects determined to be in high demand for
10 teachers by the department,¹ as well as a process for assessing eligible
11 individuals for consideration for appointment as a student.

12 c. A student's scholarship shall remain in effect only during such
13 period as the student achieves satisfactory academic progress as
14 defined by the institution and continues to meet the eligibility
15 requirements and minimum qualifications established pursuant to
16 subsections a. and b. of this section.

17 d. (1) The scholarship shall not remain in effect for a student who
18 is dismissed from the ¹public¹ institution of higher education or
19 educator preparation program for academic or disciplinary reasons, is
20 disqualified from employment by a school district due to the detection
21 of criminal history record information pursuant to section 1 of
22 P.L.1986, c.116 (C.18A:6-7.1), or otherwise becomes ineligible to
23 receive a certificate of eligibility with advanced standing from the
24 Board of Examiners, and the student shall be required to repay ¹to the
25 department¹ in full the amount of any stipend and the value of any
26 ¹tuition waiver¹ scholarship¹ received ¹as a debt to the State¹.

27 (2) The scholarship shall not remain in effect for a student who
28 does not obtain a bachelor's degree within the first four years of the
29 scholarship or who withdraws from an approved program of study due
30 to the student's illness, the illness of a member of the student's
31 immediate family, or a family emergency but the student shall not be
32 required to repay ¹to the department¹ the amount of any stipend or
33 the value of any ¹tuition waiver¹ scholarship¹ received.

34 (3) A student who received a scholarship under the program who
35 does not complete three full years of employment as a teaching staff
36 member with a public school district in the State of New Jersey within
37 five years of receiving a bachelor's degree and completing an educator
38 preparation program shall repay ¹to the department¹ the amount of
39 any stipend and the value of any ¹tuition waiver¹ scholarship¹
40 received under the ¹scholarship¹ program ¹as a debt to the State¹,
41 prorated against the duration of employment with a public school
42 district in the State as follows: a student who completes two full years
43 of employment shall repay one-third of the amount of any financial
44 support received, a student who completes one full year of
45 employment shall repay two-thirds of the amount of any financial
46 support received, and a student who fails to complete a full year of
47 employment shall repay the full amount of any financial support

1 received. ¹Any amount a student is required to pay shall be treated as
2 a debt to the State, not a student loan.¹

3 (4) A student who fails to make repayment ¹**【to the department】**¹
4 pursuant to this subsection who is the holder of any certification issued
5 by the Board of Examiners shall be subject to disciplinary action by
6 the board which may include, but need not be limited to, the
7 revocation or suspension of the certification until such time as
8 repayment is made ¹**【to the department】**¹.

9

10 3. The State shall appropriate funds in each fiscal year to finance
11 the ¹scholarships and¹ stipends provided to students pursuant to
12 section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.)(pending before the Legislature as this
13 bill), in such sums as may be necessary, and to effectuate the purposes
14 of the program established in accordance with section 1 of
15 P.L. , c. (C.)(pending before the Legislature as this bill).

16

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