

[Second 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:

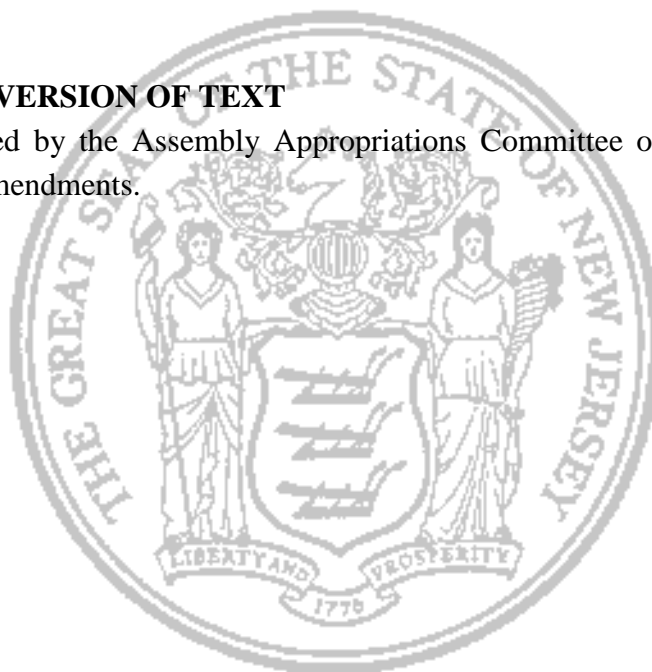
**Assemblyman Benson, Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson, McKnight,
Assemblyman Tully, Assemblywomen Swain and Lopez**

SYNOPSIS

Establishes New Jersey Educator Scholarship Program; appropriates \$3 million.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Appropriations Committee on February 23, 2023, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/27/2023)

1 AN ACT establishing the New Jersey Educator Scholarship
 2 Program, ²~~and~~² supplementing chapter ²~~6~~² 71B² of Title 18A
 3 of the New Jersey Statutes ², and making an appropriation².
 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~~¹ authority¹ shall
 14 award ²a total of 200 scholarships annually, consisting of² 50
 15 scholarships ²[annually]² to eligible recipients enrolled in ²each of
 16 the first, second, third, and fourth years of academic study at² ¹[an]
 17 a public¹ institution of higher education in the State. Students shall
 18 receive a ¹[tuition waiver] scholarship in an amount up to the
 19 ²remaining² amount of tuition¹ ²that is not covered by State,
 20 federal, or any other need-based grant or merit scholarship, for up
 21 to 18 credits² for each semester of study ¹[and be awarded] plus¹ a
 22 stipend in the amount of \$5,000 annually. ²Notwithstanding the
 23 provisions of this subsection to the contrary, the amount of a
 24 scholarship awarded to a student under the program shall not exceed
 25 the average in-State tuition amount charged by the four-year public
 26 institutions of higher education in the academic year in which the
 27 scholarship is awarded.²

28 b. A student shall be eligible to receive a stipend and ¹~~tuition~~¹
 29 waiver] scholarship¹ under the program for a maximum of four
 30 academic years, or until receipt of a bachelor's degree and
 31 completion of an educator preparation program, whichever occurs
 32 first.

33 c. Within the first five full school years immediately following
 34 receipt of a bachelor's degree and completion of an educator
 35 preparation program, a student who received a scholarship under the
 36 program shall seek and accept full time employment as a teaching
 37 staff member with a public school district ², charter school, or
 38 renaissance school² in the State of New Jersey for no less than three
 39 full school years, during which time the student shall receive
 40 mentoring coordinated by the ²~~department~~² hiring district or
 41 school in consultation with the Department of Education.
 42 Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, rule, or regulation
 43 to the contrary, the mentoring provided to an individual under this
 44 subsection shall be in addition to any minimum requirements for

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.

²Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted February 23, 2023.

1 mentorship established pursuant to State law or regulation². For the
2 purposes of fulfilling the requirements of this subsection, the three
3 years of employment with a public school district ², charter school,
4 or renaissance school² may be nonconsecutive and may be divided
5 between multiple public school districts in the State of New Jersey.
6 A student who fails to meet the requirements of this subsection
7 shall be subject to the provisions of paragraph (3) of subsection d.
8 of section 2 of this act.

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

13

14 2. a. In order to be eligible for a scholarship under the program,
15 a student shall:

16 (1) be a United States citizen ¹~~or~~ ²~~;~~¹ permanent resident
17 alien ¹, or any student eligible to complete the New Jersey
18 Alternative Financial Aid Application¹ ~~or an eligible noncitizen as~~
19 determined under 20 U.S.C. s.1091, or meet the requirements of
20 N.J.S.18A:71B-2 or section 1 of P.L.2018, c.12 (C.18A:71B-2.1) as
21 applicable² ;

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

23 (3) be enrolled full time in an ²~~approved~~ educator
24 preparation² program ²~~of study~~² at ¹~~an~~ a public¹ institution of
25 higher education in the State.

26 b. The ¹Higher Education Student Assistance Authority, in
27 coordination with the¹ Department of Education ¹~~;~~¹ may establish
28 additional eligibility requirements and minimum qualifications for
29 the program, ¹including limiting the program to students seeking
30 degrees in math, science, special education, world languages,
31 bilingual education, or other subjects determined to be in high
32 demand for teachers by the department,¹ as well as a process for
33 assessing eligible individuals for consideration for ²~~appointment~~
34 as a student ~~acceptance into the program~~² .

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

40 d. (1) The scholarship shall not remain in effect for a student
41 who is dismissed from the ¹public¹ institution of higher education
42 or educator preparation program for academic or disciplinary
43 reasons, is disqualified from employment by a school district due to
44 the detection of criminal history record information pursuant to
45 section 1 of P.L.1986, c.116 (C.18A:6-7.1), or otherwise becomes
46 ineligible to receive a certificate of eligibility with advanced
47 standing from the Board of Examiners, and the student shall be
48 required to repay ¹~~to the department~~¹ in full the amount of any

1 stipend and the value of any ¹【tuition waiver】 scholarship¹ received
2 as a debt to the State¹.

3 (2) The scholarship shall not remain in effect for a student who
4 does not obtain a bachelor's degree within the first four years of the
5 scholarship or who withdraws from an ²【approved】 educator
6 preparation² program ²【of study】² due to the student's illness, the
7 illness of a member of the student's immediate family, or a family
8 emergency but the student shall not be required to repay ¹【to the
9 department】¹ the amount of any stipend or the value of any
10 ¹【tuition waiver】 scholarship¹ received.

11 (3) A student who received a scholarship under the program
12 who does not complete three full years of employment as a teaching
13 staff member with a public school district ², charter school, or
14 renaissance school² in the State of New Jersey within five years of
15 receiving a bachelor's degree and completing an educator
16 preparation program shall repay ¹【to the department】¹ the amount
17 of any stipend and the value of any ¹【tuition waiver】 scholarship¹
18 received under the ¹【scholarship】¹ program as a debt to the State¹,
19 prorated against the duration of employment with a public school
20 district ², charter school, or renaissance school² in the State as
21 follows: a student who completes two full years of employment
22 shall repay one-third of the amount of any financial support
23 received, a student who completes one full year of employment
24 shall repay two-thirds of the amount of any financial support
25 received, and a student who fails to complete a full year of
26 employment shall repay the full amount of any financial support
27 received. ¹Any amount a student is required to pay shall be treated
28 as a debt to the State, not a student loan.¹

29 ²【(4) A student who fails to make repayment ¹【to the
30 department】¹ pursuant to this subsection who is the holder of any
31 certification issued by the Board of Examiners shall be subject to
32 disciplinary action by the board which may include, but need not be
33 limited to, the revocation or suspension of the certification until
34 such time as repayment is made ¹【to the department】¹.】²
35

36 3. The ²【State】 Legislature² shall appropriate ²【funds】 the
37 sum of \$4,000,000² in each fiscal year ², beginning in fiscal year
38 2024,² to finance the ¹scholarships and¹ stipends provided to
39 students pursuant to section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.)(pending before
40 the Legislature as this bill) ²【, in such sums as may be necessary,】²
41 and to effectuate the purposes of the program established in
42 accordance with section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.)(pending before the
43 Legislature as this bill).
44

45 ²4. In addition to the funds appropriated for the New Jersey
46 Educator Scholarship Program under P.L.2022, c.49, there is
47 appropriated from the General Fund to the Higher Education

1 Student Assistance Authority the sum of \$3,000,000 for the purpose
2 of implementing the provisions of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
3 before the Legislature as this bill).²

4

5 ²[4.] 5.² This act shall take effect immediately and shall first
6 apply to the first full academic year following the date of
7 enactment.