

[Third 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:**

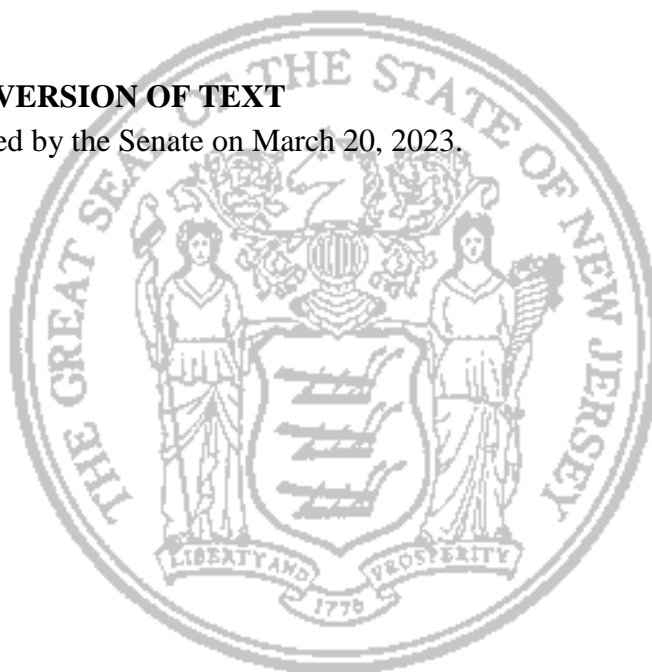
**Assemblyman Benson, Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson, McKnight,  
Assemblyman Tully, Assemblywomen Swain and Lopez**

**SYNOPSIS**

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

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As amended by the Senate on March 20, 2023.



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

1 AN ACT establishing the New Jersey Educator Scholarship  
 2 Program, <sup>2</sup>**[and]**<sup>2</sup> supplementing chapter <sup>2</sup>**[6]** 71B<sup>2</sup> of Title 18A  
 3 of the New Jersey Statutes <sup>2</sup>, and making an appropriation<sup>2</sup>.

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

13 a. Under the program, the <sup>1</sup>**[department]** authority<sup>1</sup> shall  
 14 award <sup>2</sup>a total of 200 scholarships annually, consisting of<sup>2</sup> 50  
 15 scholarships <sup>2</sup>**[annually]**<sup>2</sup> to eligible recipients enrolled in <sup>2</sup>each of  
 16 the first, second, third, and fourth years of academic study at<sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup>**[an]**  
 17 <sup>3</sup>**[a public**<sup>1</sup>] an<sup>3</sup> institution of higher education in the State.  
 18 Students shall receive a <sup>1</sup>**[tuition waiver]** scholarship in an amount  
 19 up to the<sup>2</sup> remaining<sup>2</sup> amount of tuition<sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup>that is not covered by  
 20 State, federal, or any other need-based grant or merit scholarship,  
 21 for up to 18 credits<sup>2</sup> for each semester of study <sup>1</sup>**[and be awarded]**  
 22 plus<sup>1</sup> a stipend in the amount of \$5,000 annually. <sup>2</sup>Notwithstanding  
 23 the 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.<sup>2</sup>

28 b. A student shall be eligible to receive a stipend and <sup>1</sup>**[tuition**  
 29 **waiver]** scholarship<sup>1</sup> 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 <sup>2</sup>, charter school, or  
 38 renaissance school<sup>2</sup> 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 <sup>2</sup>**[department]** 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

**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 AED committee amendments adopted May 19, 2022.

<sup>2</sup>Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted February 23, 2023.

<sup>3</sup>Senate floor amendments adopted March 20, 2023.

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

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

14

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

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

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

24 (3) be enrolled full time in an <sup>2</sup>**[approved]** educator  
25 preparation<sup>2</sup> program <sup>2</sup>[of study]<sup>2</sup> at <sup>1</sup>[an] <sup>3</sup>**[a public<sup>1</sup>]** an<sup>3</sup>  
26 institution of higher education in the State.

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

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

41 d. (1) The scholarship shall not remain in effect for a student  
42 who is dismissed from the <sup>3</sup>**[<sup>1</sup>public<sup>1</sup>]<sup>3</sup> institution of higher  
43 education or educator preparation program for academic or  
44 disciplinary reasons, is disqualified from employment by a school  
45 district due to the detection of criminal history record information  
46 pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1986, c.116 (C.18A:6-7.1), or  
47 otherwise becomes ineligible to receive a certificate of eligibility  
48 with advanced standing from the Board of Examiners, and the**

1 student shall be required to repay <sup>1</sup>【to the department】<sup>1</sup> in full the  
 2 amount of any stipend and the value of any <sup>1</sup>【tuition waiver】  
 3 scholarship<sup>1</sup> received <sup>1</sup>as a debt to the State<sup>1</sup>.

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

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

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

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

45  
 46 <sup>2</sup>4. In addition to the funds appropriated for the New Jersey  
 47 Educator Scholarship Program under P.L.2022, c.49, there is

1 appropriated from the General Fund to the Higher Education  
2 Student Assistance Authority the sum of \$3,000,000 for the purpose  
3 of implementing the provisions of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending  
4 before the Legislature as this bill).<sup>2</sup>

5

6 <sup>2</sup>**[4.]** 5.<sup>2</sup> This act shall take effect immediately and shall first  
7 apply to the first full academic year following the date of  
8 enactment.