

[Second Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 5420**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**220th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED MAY 8, 2023

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman P. CHRISTOPHER TULLY**

**District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Assemblywoman ANNETTE CHAPARRO**

**District 33 (Hudson)**

**Assemblyman HERB CONAWAY, JR.**

**District 7 (Burlington)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

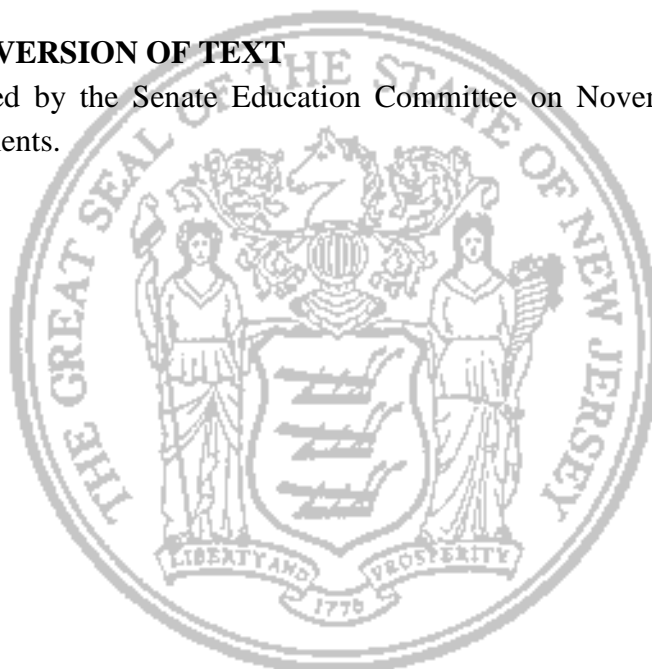
**Assemblymen Stanley, Benson, Atkins, Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson, Lopez, Carter, Assemblymen Wimberly and Coughlin**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes New Jersey Student Teacher Scholarship.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Senate Education Committee on November 27, 2023, with amendments.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/25/2023)**

1 AN ACT establishing the New Jersey <sup>2</sup>**[Student Educator Stipend]**  
 2 Student Teacher Scholarship<sup>2</sup> Program and supplementing chapter  
 3 71B of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

7  
 8 1. As used in this act:

9 “Approved program of study” means an undergraduate program  
 10 leading to a bachelor's degree offered by a four-year <sup>1</sup>**[public]**<sup>1</sup>  
 11 institution of higher education; <sup>2</sup>a post-baccalaureate program;<sup>2</sup> or a  
 12 graduate program leading to a master's degree offered by <sup>1</sup>**[a**  
 13 **public]** an<sup>1</sup> institution of higher education in the State.

14 “Authority” means the Higher Education Student Assistance  
 15 Authority.

16 “Certificate of eligibility with advanced standing” means an  
 17 instructional certificate with lifetime validity issued by the State  
 18 Board of Examiners to candidates who meet degree, academic, and  
 19 test requirements for teacher certification and complete an educator  
 20 preparation program.

21 “Clinical practice” means the culminating field-based experience  
 22 or internship required by an educator preparation program.

23 “Eligible student” means a student completing a required clinical  
 24 practice through a certificate of eligibility with advanced standing  
 25 educator preparation program at <sup>1</sup>**[a public]** an<sup>1</sup> institution of  
 26 higher education.

27 “Program” means the New Jersey <sup>2</sup>**[Student Educator Stipend]**  
 28 Student Teacher Scholarship<sup>2</sup> Program.

29  
 30 2. a. There is established in the Higher Education Student  
 31 Assistance Authority, in coordination with the Department of  
 32 Education, the New Jersey <sup>2</sup>**[Student Educator Stipend]** Student  
 33 Teacher Scholarship<sup>2</sup> Program. The purpose of the program shall be  
 34 to reduce financial barriers to teacher certification.

35 b. Under the program, the authority shall award <sup>2</sup>**[stipends]**  
 36 scholarships<sup>2</sup> to eligible students for each semester of full-time  
 37 clinical practice completed by a student <sup>1</sup>in a school in the State<sup>1</sup>.  
 38 Students shall be awarded a <sup>2</sup>**[stipend]** scholarship<sup>2</sup> in <sup>1</sup>**[the]** an<sup>1</sup>  
 39 amount <sup>1</sup>**[of]** not to exceed<sup>1</sup> \$7,200 for each semester of full-time  
 40 clinical practice completed by a student. <sup>1</sup>The executive director of  
 41 the authority may increase the maximum award amount established  
 42 pursuant to this section to include a cost of living adjustment.<sup>1</sup> A

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 AAP committee amendments adopted May 18, 2023.

<sup>2</sup>Senate SED committee amendments adopted November 27, 2023.

1 student shall be eligible to receive a <sup>2</sup>[stipend] scholarship<sup>2</sup> under  
2 the program for a maximum of two academic semesters.

3

4 3. a. To be eligible for a <sup>2</sup>[stipend] scholarship<sup>2</sup> under the  
5 program, an applicant shall:

6 (1) <sup>2</sup>[be a United States citizen, permanent resident alien, or any  
7 student eligible to complete the New Jersey Alternative Financial  
8 Aid Application;

9 (2) <sup>2</sup>] be a resident of the State;

10 <sup>2</sup>[(3)] (2)<sup>2</sup> be enrolled on a full-time basis in an approved  
11 program of study; and

12 <sup>2</sup>[(4)] (3)<sup>2</sup> complete any steps required by the approved program  
13 of study to be eligible to apply for clinical practice.

14 b. The authority, in coordination with the department, may  
15 establish additional eligibility requirements and minimum  
16 qualifications for the program, including limiting the program to  
17 students seeking degrees in math, science, special education, world  
18 languages, bilingual education, or other subjects determined to be in  
19 high demand for educators by the department.

20 c. A student's <sup>2</sup>[stipend] scholarship<sup>2</sup> shall continue only during  
21 the period the student <sup>2</sup>[achieves satisfactory academic progress]  
22 remains in good academic standing,<sup>2</sup> as defined by the institution  
23 and continues to meet the eligibility and minimum qualifications  
24 established pursuant to subsections a. and b. of this section.

25 d. (1) The <sup>2</sup>[stipend] scholarship<sup>2</sup> shall be terminated if a  
26 student is dismissed from the <sup>1</sup>[public]<sup>1</sup> institution of higher  
27 education or educator preparation program for academic or  
28 disciplinary reasons, is disqualified from employment by a school  
29 district due to the detection of criminal history record information  
30 pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1986, c.116 (C.18A:6-7.1), or  
31 otherwise becomes ineligible to receive a certificate of eligibility  
32 with advanced standing from the Board of Examiners <sup>2</sup>[, and the  
33 student shall be required to repay the full amount of any stipend  
34 received under the program as a debt to the State]<sup>2</sup>.

35 (2) The <sup>2</sup>[stipend] scholarship<sup>2</sup> shall be terminated if a student  
36 withdraws from an approved program of study due to the student's  
37 illness, the illness of a member of the student's immediate family,  
38 or a family emergency, but the student shall not be required to  
39 repay the amount of any <sup>2</sup>[stipend] scholarship<sup>2</sup> received under the  
40 program.

41

42 4. Within 90 days of the effective date of this act, the authority  
43 shall establish an application process to provide <sup>2</sup>[stipends]  
44 scholarships<sup>2</sup> to eligible students under the New Jersey <sup>2</sup>[Student  
45 Educator Stipend] Student Teacher Scholarship<sup>2</sup> Program  
46 established pursuant to section 2 of this act. No later than the first

1 day of the fourth month next following the effective date of this act,  
2 the authority shall make the application available, and shall, within  
3 a reasonable time frame thereafter, commence approving  
4 applications for the program.

5

6 5. The authority, in coordination with the Department of  
7 Education, shall annually collect data to measure the effectiveness  
8 of the program, which shall include, but not be limited to:

9 a. the total number of program participants, disaggregated by  
10 certificate of eligibility with advanced standing educator  
11 preparation program;

12 b. a survey of program participants to measure the participant's  
13 experience with the <sup>2</sup>**[stipend]**<sup>2</sup> program; and

14 c. the demographic data of each program participant,  
15 disaggregated by race, ethnicity, and gender.

16

17 6. Nothing in this act shall be construed to exempt a student  
18 from meeting educator certification requirements in accordance  
19 with rules and regulations promulgated by the State Board of  
20 Education.

21

22 7. The Legislature shall annually appropriate from the General  
23 Fund to the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority  
24 amounts as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act.

25

26 8. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to  
27 the first full academic year following the date of enactment.