

SENATE, No. 3349

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 3, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator ROBERT W. SINGER

District 30 (Monmouth and Ocean)

Senator ANDREW ZWICKER

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes New Jersey Workforce Industry Needs Scholarship.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT establishing the New Jersey Workforce Industry Needs
2 Scholarship and supplementing chapter 6 of Title 18A of the
3 New Jersey Statutes.

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

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8 1. a. The Secretary of Higher Education shall establish the New
9 Jersey Workforce Industry Needs Scholarship. The purpose of the
10 scholarship shall be to provide opportunities to students pursuing
11 professional certificates, industry-recognized credentials, diplomas,
12 or degrees from eligible programs at a county college or county
13 vocational school in the State.

14 b. The Secretary of Higher Education, in consultation with the
15 Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development, the New
16 Jersey Community College Consortium, and the New Jersey
17 Council of County Colleges, shall develop a list of eligible
18 programs at county colleges and county vocational schools.
19 Eligible programs shall be programs that prepare students to enter
20 the workforce and meet the specific labor needs of the State as
21 identified in the Labor Demand Occupation List produced by the
22 Department of Labor and Workforce Development. Eligible
23 programs shall additionally include, but need not be limited to,
24 necessary certificates, credentials, diplomas, licenses or degrees for
25 high demand positions in: advanced manufacturing; architecture
26 and construction; education; health care and social services; human
27 resources; law and public safety; life sciences; and transportation,
28 logistics, and distribution.

29 c. The scholarship shall be equal to the cost of tuition, fees,
30 expenses for required course-related materials, and fees for
31 professional licenses after applying all other federal or State
32 scholarships or grants, and shall not exceed \$5,000 each year. A
33 student shall be eligible to receive the scholarship for up to three
34 years if the student is enrolled in an associate degree program, and
35 up to two years if the student is enrolled in any other eligible
36 program. A student enrolled in a degree-seeking program shall
37 maintain a grade point average of 2.0 or better on a 4.0 grading
38 scale.

39 d. In order to be eligible for a scholarship, a student shall:

- 40 (1) be a resident of the State of New Jersey;
41 (2) be enrolled in an eligible program as determined by the
42 secretary pursuant to subsection b. of this section; and
43 (3) meet one of the following criteria:
44 (a) be employed; or
45 (b) take a financial literacy course offered by the institution at
46 which the student is enrolled.

47 e. Scholarships shall be awarded on an annual basis and subject
48 to the limit of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to

1 effectuate the purposes of this section. Priority shall be given to
2 students seeking a degree, diploma, professional certificate, or
3 industry-recognized credential in an industry area of high need as
4 determined by the secretary pursuant to subsection b. of this
5 section. A minimum of five percent of scholarship awards shall be
6 allocated towards dual-enrollment students eligible to receive the
7 scholarship.

8 f. The secretary shall submit an annual report by December 31
9 of each year to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to
10 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), concerning:

11 (1) the total number of students receiving scholarships and the
12 number of students receiving scholarships at each institution;

13 (2) the average scholarship amount received;

14 (3) the total amount of scholarships received by students at each
15 institution;

16 (4) a list of credential categories completed by scholarship
17 students and the number of credentials earned in each category;

18 (5) the average scholarship amount received by students for each
19 credential category; and

20 (6) job placement rates for scholarships students, disaggregated
21 by credential category and institution.

22 g. The secretary may solicit and accept any grants, gifts,
23 donations, or other funds from public or private sources for the
24 purpose of supporting the New Jersey Workforce Industry Needs
25 Scholarship, except that the secretary may not accept any grants,
26 gifts, donations, or other funds that are subject to conditions that are
27 inconsistent with any other law of this State.

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

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STATEMENT

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35 This bill establishes the New Jersey Workforce Industry Needs
36 Scholarship, which will provide opportunities to students pursuing
37 professional certificates, industry-recognized credentials, diplomas,
38 or degrees from eligible programs at a county college or county
39 vocational school in the State.

40 Under the bill, the Secretary of Higher Education, in consultation
41 with the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development, the
42 New Jersey Community College Consortium, and the New Jersey
43 Council of County Colleges, is required to develop a list of eligible
44 programs at county colleges and county vocational schools. Eligible
45 programs are to be programs that prepare students to enter the
46 workforce and meet the specific labor needs of the State as
47 identified in the Labor Demand Occupation List produced by the
48 Department of Labor and Workforce Development. Eligible

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2 necessary certificates, credentials, diplomas, licenses or degrees for
3 high demand positions in: advanced manufacturing; architecture
4 and construction; education; health care and social services; human
5 resources; law and public safety; life sciences; and transportation,
6 logistics, and distribution.

7 The scholarship amount is equal to the cost of tuition, fees,
8 expenses for required course-related materials, and fees for
9 professional licenses after applying all other federal or State
10 scholarships or grants, and is not to exceed \$5,000 each year. A
11 student is eligible to receive the scholarship for up to three years if
12 the student is enrolled in an associate degree program, and up to
13 two years if the student is enrolled in any other eligible program. A
14 student enrolled in a degree-seeking program shall maintain a grade
15 point average of 2.0 or better on a 4.0 grading scale.

16 Scholarships are to be awarded on an annual basis and subject to
17 the limit of funds appropriated or otherwise made available for the
18 scholarship. Priority is to be given to students seeking a degree,
19 diploma, professional certificate, or industry-recognized credential
20 in an industry area of high need. A minimum of five percent of
21 scholarship awards are to be allocated towards dual-enrollment
22 students eligible to receive the scholarship.