

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[Second Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3897

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 4, 2024

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3897 (2R).

This bill authorizes the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority to award annual summer tuition aid grants to eligible students.

Under current law, a student may be eligible for a summer tuition aid grant in the summer 2023 semester only, provided that: the student is enrolled in six or more credit hours in the summer term; the courses for which the summer tuition aid grant is to be applied are in the same undergraduate program at the same institution in which the student was last enrolled during the fall or spring semesters of the preceding academic year; and the courses for which the summer tuition aid grant is to be applied may be credited towards the student's graduation or academic major requirements.

The bill revises current law to annually extend summer tuition aid grants. The amended bill stipulates that summer 2024 grants are to be funded by any amounts as may be required from the unexpended balance of funds previously awarded for tuition aid grants. The amended bill also permits the Legislature to appropriate additional funds for the summer 2024 grants by a separate line item.

Finally, the bill stipulates that beginning with the summer 2025 semester, summer tuition aid grants are to be funded by a separate line item in the annual appropriations act.

As reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 3897 (2R) is identical to Assembly Bill No. 5578 (2R), which was also reported by the committee on this date.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) finds that this bill will have no fiscal impact in FY 2024 as it is likely that sufficient funds were appropriated in the FY 2024 Appropriations Act to provide tuition aid grants in summer 2024. The OLS estimates that the total sum of summer tuition aid grants provided in any given academic year may total as high as \$35 million.