

[First Reprint]

**SENATE, No. 1812**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**216th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED MARCH 24, 2014

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator JIM WHELAN**

**District 2 (Atlantic)**

**Senator JAMES BEACH**

**District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

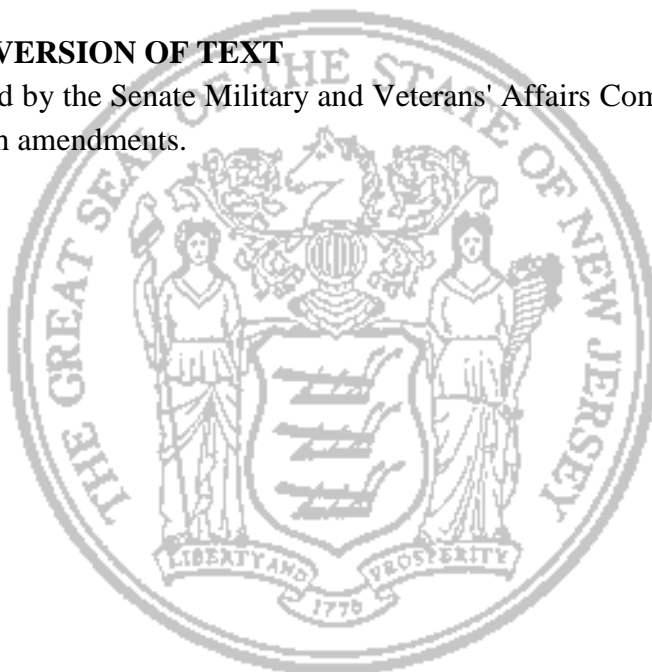
**Senators Van Drew, A.R.Bucco, Beck, Madden and Pou**

**SYNOPSIS**

“Military Dependents Scholarship Fund Act”; provides college scholarships to the spouses and children of those killed, missing in action or disabled in Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, or Operation New Dawn.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Senate Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee on June 19, 2014, with amendments.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/30/2015)**

1 AN ACT establishing a college scholarship fund and supplementing  
2 chapter 71B of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the “Military  
8 Dependents Scholarship Fund Act.”

9

10 2. a here is established in the Higher Education Student  
11 Assistance Authority a nonlapsing fund which shall be known as the  
12 Military Dependents Scholarship Fund. The fund shall be  
13 administered by the board of trustees established pursuant to section  
14 3 of this act.

15 b. The fund shall consist of: all moneys appropriated by the  
16 Legislature for inclusion in the fund; investment earnings of the  
17 fund; and moneys contributed to the fund by private sources, to be  
18 used for the purposes of this act.

19 c. The moneys in the fund shall be invested and reinvested by  
20 the Director of the Division of Investment in the Department of the  
21 Treasury.

22

23 3. a. The board of trustees of the Military Dependents  
24 Scholarship Fund shall consist of the State Adjutant General, or a  
25 designee, the State Treasurer, or a designee, the executive director  
26 of the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority, or a  
27 designee, the Secretary of Higher Education, or a designee, and  
28 <sup>1</sup>~~eight~~ nine<sup>1</sup> public members appointed as follows: two by the  
29 President of the Senate, who shall not be of the same political party,  
30 two by the Speaker of the General Assembly, who shall not be of  
31 the same political party, and <sup>1</sup>~~four~~ five<sup>1</sup> by the Governor, with the  
32 advice and consent of the Senate, no more than <sup>1</sup>~~two~~ three<sup>1</sup> of  
33 whom shall be of the same political party. <sup>1</sup>~~Five~~ At least five<sup>1</sup> of  
34 the public members shall be persons who were directly affected by  
35 Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation  
36 Iraqi Freedom, or Operation New Dawn. Two of the public  
37 members shall be named by the Governor to serve as co-  
38 chairpersons of the board.

39 b. Each public member of the board shall serve for a term of  
40 three years and until a successor shall have been appointed and  
41 qualified; except that of the first members appointed, two shall  
42 serve for one year, three shall serve for two years and <sup>1</sup>~~three~~ four<sup>1</sup>  
43 shall serve for three years. Any vacancy in the membership of  
44 the board shall be filled in the same manner as the original

**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>Senate SMV committee amendments adopted June 19, 2014.

1 appointment for the remainder of the unexpired term.

2 c. Members of the board shall serve without compensation.  
3 Reasonable expenses of the board shall be paid out of the fund  
4 proceeds, subject to approval by the State Treasurer.

5 d. The board shall have the following duties and  
6 responsibilities:

7 (1) determine eligibility for a scholarship from the fund;

8 (2) determine the amount of each scholarship award;

9 (3) report annually to the Governor and the Legislature on the  
10 performance of its duties in accordance with the provisions of this  
11 act;

12 (4) solicit and raise private funds to finance the Military  
13 Dependents Scholarship program; and

14 (5) receive and disburse such contributions to the fund as may  
15 be forthcoming from private and public sources.

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24 performance of its duties in accordance with the provisions of this  
25 act;

26 (4) solicit and raise private funds to finance the Military  
27 Dependents Scholarship program; and

28 (5) receive and disburse such contributions to the fund as may  
29 be forthcoming from private and public sources.

30

31 4. a. The board of trustees is authorized to award scholarships  
32 from the fund for the costs of undergraduate study at a public or  
33 independent institution of higher education to the spouse, child, or  
34 other eligible dependent of a New Jersey resident who is killed,  
35 officially listed as "Missing in Action" by the United States  
36 Department of Defense, or totally and permanently disabled as  
37 certified by the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs as a  
38 consequence of Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring  
39 Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, or Operation New Dawn.

40 b. Scholarships from the fund may be awarded annually upon  
41 proper application by any student who qualifies under the criteria  
42 established by the authority.

43

44 5. a. A Military Dependents Scholarship shall not be awarded  
45 to an applicant unless the applicant has demonstrated to the  
46 satisfaction of the board that the applicant:

47 (1) will be or is enrolled in a full-time undergraduate program of  
48 study leading to a degree at an institution of higher education; and

1 (2) has complied with all rules and regulations adopted pursuant  
2 to this act for the award, regulation and administration of  
3 scholarships from the fund.

4 b. Eligibility for a Military Survivors Scholarship, in the case  
5 of a spouse or other eligible dependent, shall be limited to a period  
6 of 15 years from the date of death of the person, the date the person  
7 is officially listed as "Missing in Action" or the date upon which the  
8 person is certified to have been totally and permanently disabled for  
9 initial receipt of the benefits under the program. In the case of a  
10 dependent child, eligibility shall be limited to a period of eight  
11 years following graduation from high school.

12  
13 6. The Higher Education Student Assistance Authority, in  
14 consultation with the <sup>1</sup>【New Jersey Commission on】 Secretary of<sup>1</sup>  
15 Higher Education, shall adopt rules and regulations pursuant to the  
16 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et  
17 seq.), necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act, including  
18 establishing criteria for eligibility for a scholarship from the fund  
19 and procedures for determining the amount of each scholarship  
20 award.

21  
22 7. This act shall take effect immediately.