

SENATE, No. 989

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 4, 2016

Sponsored by:

Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM

District 31 (Hudson)

Senator STEPHEN M. SWEENEY

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes "Einstein Scholars Program."

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT establishing the Einstein Scholars Program and
2 supplementing chapter 71B of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 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. There is hereby established the “Einstein Scholars Program.”
9 Under the program, a scholarship shall annually be awarded to 25
10 students who graduate in the top 5.0% of the student’s high school
11 class and have been accepted for enrollment in a New Jersey four-
12 year public institution of higher education. It shall be the duty of
13 the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority to administer
14 the program, establish criteria, methodology, and guidelines for
15 selecting the Einstein Scholars, adopt rules and regulations, and
16 prescribe and provide appropriate forms of application for a
17 scholarship.

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19 2. a. A scholarship under the Einstein Scholars Program shall
20 cover the full cost of tuition and fees, subject to the prior
21 application of other grants and scholarships against those costs, for
22 an eligible student enrolled in a full-time undergraduate program of
23 study at a New Jersey four-year public institution of higher
24 education.

25 b. Each scholarship awarded shall be renewable annually for up
26 to four years except that, in the case of a scholarship recipient who
27 is enrolled in an undergraduate program of study required by the
28 institution to cover five years, the period of the scholarship shall be
29 the length of time regularly required for the completion of the
30 undergraduate program of study. Each scholarship shall remain in
31 effect only during such period as the Einstein Scholar achieves
32 satisfactory academic progress as defined by the institution,
33 continues to meet the eligibility criteria established by the authority,
34 and is regularly enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student at the
35 institution.

36 c. A student shall be eligible to apply for a scholarship under
37 the Einstein Scholars Program if the student:

38 (1) graduates high school in the top 5.0% of the student’s high
39 school class, provided that in the case of students graduating from
40 high schools that do not calculate the class rank of their students,
41 the student’s ranking at the completion of the 12th grade shall be
42 determined by the high school in consultation with the authority;
43 and

44 (2) applies for the scholarship in accordance with the guidelines
45 established by the authority.

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47 3. In September of each school year, the board of education of
48 a school district or the chief school administrator of a nonpublic

1 school shall notify each student in the 12th grade who is ranked in
2 the top 10.0% of the class of the potential to qualify for the Einstein
3 Scholars Program if the student's class rank at the completion of the
4 12th grade is within the top 5.0% of the class. The notification shall
5 be communicated via regular or electronic mail or sent home with
6 the student and include a brief description of the Einstein Scholars
7 Program and the requirements for eligibility for the program.

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9 4. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first be
10 applicable to the 2017-2018 academic year.

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STATEMENT

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15 This bill establishes the "Einstein Scholars Program." Under the
16 program, a scholarship will annually be awarded to 25 students who
17 graduate in the top 5.0% of the student's high school class and have
18 been accepted for enrollment in a New Jersey four-year public
19 institution of higher education.

20 A scholarship under the Einstein Scholars Program will cover the
21 full cost of tuition and fees, subject to the prior application of other
22 grants and scholarships against those costs, for an eligible student
23 enrolled in a full-time undergraduate program of study at a New
24 Jersey four-year public institution of higher education.

25 Under the bill, the Higher Education Student Assistance
26 Authority will administer the program, establish criteria,
27 methodology, and guidelines for selecting the Einstein Scholars,
28 adopt rules and regulations, and prescribe and provide appropriate
29 forms of application for a scholarship.

30 The bill also provides that, in September of each school year, the
31 board of education of a school district or the chief school
32 administrator of a nonpublic school will notify each student in the
33 12th grade who is ranked in the top 10.0% of the class of the
34 potential to qualify for the Einstein Scholars Program if the
35 student's class rank at the completion of the 12th grade is within the
36 top 5.0% of the class.