

ASSEMBLY, No. 1281

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman LOUIS D. GREENWALD

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblyman WAYNE P. DEANGELO

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Mosquera

SYNOPSIS

Revises and renames NJSTARS; repeals NJSTARS II; establishes NJ HonorScholars Program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** concerning college scholarships, revising various parts of
 2 the statutory law, and supplementing chapter 71B of Title 18A of
 3 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. Section 1 of P.L.2004, c.59 (C.18A:71B-81) is amended to
 9 read as follows:

10 1. **【This act】** P.L.2004, c. 59 (C.18A:71B-81 et seq.) and
 11 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) shall
 12 be known and may be cited as the "New Jersey **【Student Tuition**
 13 **Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS) Program】**
 14 HonorScholars Act."
 15 (cf: P.L.2004, c.59, s.1)

16
 17 2. Section 3 of P.L.2004, c.59 (C.18A:71B-83) is amended to
 18 read as follows:

19 3. As used in **【this act】** P.L.2004, c.59 (C.18A:71B-81 et seq.)
 20 and P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill):

21 "Authority" means the Higher Education Student Assistance
 22 Authority established pursuant to N.J.S.18A:71A-3.

23 "Full-time course of study" in any semester for a county college
 24 student means a course of study, leading to a degree from the
 25 county college of enrollment, that includes at least 12 credit hours,
 26 not including any credit hours in a remedial or developmental
 27 curriculum. “Full-time course of study” in any semester for a
 28 student at a four-year public or independent institution of higher
 29 education means a course of study that includes at least 12 credit
 30 hours, not including any credit hours in a remedial or
 31 developmental curriculum, and leads to a degree from a New Jersey
 32 four-year public or independent institution of higher education.

33 "Program" means the New Jersey **【Student Tuition Assistance**
 34 **Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS)】** HonorScholars Program **【for**
 35 **county college students】.**

36 (cf: P.L.2004, c.59, s.3)

37
 38 3. Section 4 of P.L.2004, c.59 (C.18A:71B-84) is amended to
 39 read as follows:

40 4. There is hereby created the New Jersey **【Student Tuition**
 41 **Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS)】** HonorScholars
 42 Program for county college students and students attending a State
 43 public or independent four-year institution of higher education. It
 44 shall be the duty of the Higher Education Student Assistance

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.

1 Authority to administer the program.
2 (cf: P.L.2004, c.59, s.4)

3

4 4. Section 5 of P.L.2004, c.59 (C.18A:71B-85) is amended to
5 read as follows:

6 5. a. A county college scholarship under the **【NJ STARS】**
7 New Jersey HonorScholars Program shall cover the full cost of
8 tuition, subject to the prior application of other grants and
9 scholarships against those costs as provided under paragraph (2) of
10 subsection c. of this section, for up to 18 credit hours in any
11 semester, for an eligible student enrolled in a full-time course of
12 study at the New Jersey county college serving the student's county
13 of residence. An otherwise eligible student who demonstrates to the
14 authority, in accordance with such criteria and by means of such
15 documentation as the authority shall establish by regulation, that the
16 county college serving the student's county of residence does not
17 offer the curriculum that the student chooses to study shall be
18 eligible for such scholarship at another New Jersey county college
19 offering that curriculum. The amount of any scholarship allowed
20 hereunder to a student at a county college serving a county other
21 than the student's county of residence shall be computed as though
22 the student were a resident of the county served by that college, and
23 the college shall likewise compute the amount of any additional
24 payment, required with respect to the enrollment of that student for
25 credit hours of study during a semester in which the scholarship is
26 awarded that are not covered by that scholarship, as though the
27 student were a resident of the county.

28 b. A student shall be eligible for a county college scholarship
29 under the **【NJ STARS】** New Jersey HonorScholars Program for up
30 to five semesters, including summer sessions. The scholarship shall
31 be payable for the first year of enrollment in a county college to a
32 student who:

33 (1) has graduated high school and, in the case of a student who
34 graduates in the **【2013-2014】** 2019-2020 school year and thereafter,
35 whose class rank at the completion of the 11th grade or 12th grade
36 was in the top **【15.0%】** 20.0% of the student's high school class,
37 provided that in the case of students graduating from high schools
38 that do not calculate the class rank of their students, the student's
39 ranking at the completion of the 11th grade or 12th grade shall be
40 determined by the high school in consultation with the authority;
41 and

42 (2) completed a rigorous high school course of study in
43 accordance with standards established by the Secretary of Higher
44 Education in consultation with the Commissioner of Education.

45 During a student's enrollment in a county college after the first
46 year of enrollment, the scholarship shall be payable to that student
47 if the student attains a grade point average of at least 3.0 by the start
48 of the student's second year of county college enrollment. A

1 student who attains a grade point average of less than 3.0 at the start
2 of the second semester of the student's first year of county college
3 enrollment shall participate in an enrichment program designed by
4 the county college during the second semester of the student's first
5 year of enrollment.

6 c. To be eligible to receive a county college scholarship under
7 the **【NJ STARS】** New Jersey HonorScholars Program a student
8 shall:

9 (1) be a State resident pursuant to guidelines established by the
10 authority. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1 of P.L.1979,
11 c.361 (C.18A:62-4) or any other section of law to the contrary, a
12 dependent child of a parent or guardian who has been transferred to
13 a military installation located in this State shall be considered a
14 resident of this State for the purposes of qualifying for **【an NJ**
15 **STARS】** a New Jersey HonorScholars scholarship;

16 (2) have applied for all other available forms of State and
17 federal need-based grants and merit scholarships, exclusive of
18 loans, the full amount of which grants and scholarships shall be
19 applied to tuition to reduce the amount of any county college
20 scholarship that the student shall receive under the **【provisions of**
21 **this act】** New Jersey HonorScholars Program;

22 (3) except as otherwise provided pursuant to subsection a. or
23 subsection c. of section 3 of P.L.2008, c.124 (C.18A:71B-85.2), be
24 enrolled in a full-time course of study at a New Jersey county
25 college;

26 (4) have graduated from high school in 2004 or later, and not
27 earlier than the calendar year two years prior to the first calendar
28 year in which a scholarship payment is to be made; and

29 (5) except as otherwise provided pursuant to subsection a. or
30 subsection c. of section 3 of P.L.2008, c.124 (C.18A:71B-85.2),
31 maintain continuous enrollment in a full-time course of study,
32 unless on medical leave due to the illness of the student or a
33 member of the student's immediate family or emergency leave
34 because of a family emergency, which medical or emergency leave
35 shall have been approved by the county college, or unless called to
36 partial or full mobilization for State or federal active duty as a
37 member of the National Guard or a Reserve component of the
38 Armed Forces of the United States.

39 d. A student who is dismissed for academic or disciplinary
40 reasons from a county college shall no longer be eligible for a
41 county college scholarship under **【this act】** the New Jersey
42 HonorScholars Program. If a student participating in the program is
43 dismissed for disciplinary reasons, the student shall repay in full all
44 amounts received under the program. The county college shall be
45 responsible for collecting the repayment, or the amount of any
46 overpayment or other improper payment, of any State awards under

1 the program, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.18A:71B-
2 10.

3 e. A **【student】** county college scholarship under the **【NJ**
4 **STARS】** New Jersey HonorScholars Program may be renewed upon
5 the student's filing of a renewal financial aid application and
6 providing evidence that the student has satisfied the requirements
7 pursuant to subsection b. of this section.
8 (cf: P.L.2017, c.360, s.1)

9
10 5. Section 2 of P.L.2008, c.124 (C.18A:71B-85.1) is amended
11 to read as follows:

12 2. a. Upon notice from the authority in a student's senior year
13 of high school of conditional eligibility for a county college
14 scholarship under the 【NJ STARS】 New Jersey HonorScholars
15 Program, a student who determines to pursue final eligibility for the
16 program shall take a college placement test to determine readiness
17 for college-level coursework. The test shall be selected by the New
18 Jersey Council of County Colleges and administered by the county
19 college of the county in which the student's school district is located
20 at no cost to the student or the school district. A county college
21 may enter into an agreement with the school district to administer
22 the test at the high school or other selected site within the district.

23 b. A county college shall notify any student who does not
24 achieve the required score on the placement test that the student
25 requires remediation prior to pursuing county college coursework
26 for credit under the **【NJ STARS】** New Jersey HonorScholars
27 Program. The student shall have the responsibility to address the
28 identified deficiencies through such means as the student
29 determines, including enrollment in remedial classes at the county
30 college during the senior year of high school.

31 c. Upon graduation from high school, if a student meets the
32 eligibility criteria for receipt of **【an NJ STARS scholarship】** a
33 county college scholarship under the New Jersey HonorScholars
34 Program but is not able to demonstrate the skill levels required to
35 pursue courses for credit at a county college, the student shall not
36 receive **【an NJ STARS】** a New Jersey HonorScholars scholarship
37 until that ability is demonstrated. The student shall have one year
38 from the September 1 next following the date of high school
39 graduation to demonstrate such ability, and if at the end of the one-
40 year period the student continues to require remediation, then the
41 student shall lose eligibility for a county college scholarship under
42 the 【NJ STARS】 New Jersey HonorScholars Program. If during or
43 at the end of the one-year period the student demonstrates the
44 required ability, then the student shall be eligible for **【an NJ**
45 **STARS scholarship】** a county college scholarship under the New
46 Jersey HonorScholars Program for five semesters.

47 (cf: P.L.2008, c.124, s.2)

1 6. Section 3 of P.L.2008, c.124 (C.18A:71B-85.2) is amended
2 to read as follows:

3 3. a. A student who receives **【an NJ STARS】** a county college
4 New Jersey HonorScholars scholarship shall be eligible to take less
5 than 12 credits in the final semester if the county college determines
6 that the student needs to complete less than 12 credits in that
7 semester to complete the degree program.

8 b. In the case of a student who is enrolled in an associate
9 degree program regularly requiring six semesters, the student shall
10 not receive **【an NJ STARS】** a county college scholarship under the
11 New Jersey HonorScholars Program for the sixth semester but shall
12 maintain eligibility for **【the New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance**
13 **Reward Scholarship II (NJ STARS II) Program** established pursuant
14 to P.L.2005, c.359 (C.18A:71B-86.1 et seq.) **】** a scholarship under
15 the New Jersey HonorScholars Program for the third and fourth
16 years of academic study at a four-year public or independent
17 institution of higher education pursuant to section 11 of
18 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),
19 provided that the student meets the requirements for receipt of **【an**
20 **NJ STARS II】** that scholarship.

21 c. A student who receives a county college scholarship under
22 the New Jersey HonorScholars Program shall be eligible to take less
23 than 12 credits in a semester if the student provides to the college a
24 written note from a physician or other licensed health care
25 professional indicating the student's need to take a reduced number
26 of credits due to a physical or mental health condition. A student
27 who receives a medical exemption from the full-time course of
28 study requirement pursuant to this subsection shall be eligible for
29 additional semesters of eligibility for a county college New Jersey
30 HonorScholars scholarship, as necessary.

31 (cf: P.L.2008, c.124, s.3)

32

33 7. Section 4 of P.L.2008, c.124 (C.18A:71B-85.3) is amended
34 to read as follows:

35 4. A student who is eligible for **【an NJ STARS】** a county
36 college New Jersey HonorScholars Program scholarship who earned
37 college credits while enrolled in high school may submit to the
38 county college a transcript from the institution of higher education
39 that awarded the credits. If the county college determines that the
40 student's coursework is equivalent to that offered by the county
41 college, then the county college shall apply the credits toward the
42 award of the student's associate degree under the **【NJ STARS】** New
43 Jersey HonorScholars Program.

44 (cf: P.L.2008, c.124, s.4)

45

46 8. Section 1 of P.L.2009, c.280 (C.18A:71B-85.5) is amended
47 to read as follows:

1 1. a. In September of each school year, the board of education
2 of a school district or the chief school administrator of a nonpublic
3 school shall provide each student in the 9th grade with general
4 information on the **【New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward**
5 **Scholarship (NJ STARS)】** New Jersey HonorScholars Program
6 **【created pursuant to P.L.2004, c.59 (C.18A:71B-81 et seq.)】**.

7 b. In September of each school year, the board of education of
8 a school district or the chief school administrator of a nonpublic
9 school shall notify each student in the 11th grade who is ranked in
10 the top 25.0% of the class of his potential to qualify for a county
11 college scholarship under the 【NJ STARS】 New Jersey
12 HonorScholars Program if the student's class rank at the completion
13 of the 11th grade or 12th grade is within the top **【15.0%】** 20.0% of
14 the class.

15 The notification shall include information about the rigorous
16 course of study required to qualify for the program.

17 A student in the 12th grade shall be notified of conditional
18 eligibility for a county college scholarship under the 【NJ STARS】
19 New Jersey HonorScholars Program by the Higher Education
20 Student Assistance Authority in accordance with the provisions of
21 section 2 of P.L.2008, c.124 (C.18A:71B-85.1).

22 c. The notification by the board of education or chief school
23 administrator required pursuant to subsections a. and b. of this
24 section shall be communicated via regular or electronic mail or sent
25 home with the student and include a brief description of the **【NJ**
26 **STARS】** New Jersey HonorScholars Program and the requirements
27 for eligibility for the program.

28 (cf: P.L.2014, c.55, s.2)

29
30 9. Section 5 of P.L.2012, c.8 (C.18A:71B-85.6) is amended to
31 read as follows:

32 5. Each county college is encouraged to host an annual
33 recruitment day and invite a representative from each four-year
34 public and independent institution of higher education in the State
35 for the purpose of recruiting students for a scholarship for the third
36 and fourth years of academic study at the four-year institution under
37 the 【NJ STARS II】 New Jersey HonorScholars Program.

38 (cf: P.L.2012, c.8, s.5)

39
40 10. (New section) a. The New Jersey HonorScholars Program
41 shall offer scholarships to students at State public or independent
42 four-year institutions of higher education. For an eligible student
43 enrolled in a full-time course of study at a New Jersey four-year
44 public or independent institution of higher education, the
45 scholarship shall be applied toward the cost of tuition, subject to the
46 prior application of other grants and scholarships against such costs
47 as provided under paragraph (3) of subsection c. of this section. A

1 scholarship under the program shall be paid to the four-year
2 institution in the amount of \$2,000 per semester. The award
3 amount shall not, when combined with any other financial
4 assistance, exceed the student's actual tuition costs. The cost of a
5 scholarship shall be paid 100% by the State. Any cost of attendance
6 that is not covered by the scholarship or other available forms of
7 grants and scholarships shall be paid by the student.

8 b. Except as provided in section 11 of
9 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), a
10 student shall be eligible for a scholarship under this section for up
11 to eight semesters, excluding summer sessions, and in order to
12 receive the scholarship the student shall have graduated in the top
13 10.0% of the student's high school graduating class. In the case of
14 students graduating from high schools that do not calculate the class
15 rank of their students, the student's ranking shall be determined by
16 the high school in consultation with the authority.

17 c. A student shall be eligible to receive a scholarship to a State
18 public or independent four-year institution of higher education if
19 the student:

20 (1) has an annual family income, both taxable and non-taxable,
21 as derived from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid
22 (FAFSA) for the academic year, of less than \$250,000;

23 (2) is a State resident pursuant to guidelines established by the
24 authority. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1 of P.L.1979,
25 c.361 (C.18A:62-4) or any other section of law to the contrary, a
26 dependent child of a parent or guardian who has been transferred to
27 a military installation located in this State shall be considered a
28 resident of this State for the purposes of qualifying for a
29 scholarship;

30 (3) has applied for all other available forms of State and federal
31 need-based grants and merit scholarships, exclusive of loans, the
32 full amount of which grants and scholarships shall be applied to
33 tuition to reduce the amount of any scholarship that the student
34 receives under the provisions of the New Jersey HonorScholars
35 Program;

36 (4) except as otherwise provided pursuant to subsection f. of this
37 section, is enrolled in a full-time course of study at a four-year
38 public or independent institution of higher education and maintains
39 a 3.0 grade point average. A grade for credits earned during a
40 summer semester shall for the purposes of this paragraph be
41 included in the calculation of the grade point average for the
42 preceding academic year; and

43 (5) except as otherwise provided pursuant to subsection f. of this
44 section, maintains continuous enrollment in a full-time course of
45 study, unless on medical leave due to the illness of the student or a
46 member of the student's immediate family or emergency leave
47 because of a family emergency, which medical or emergency leave
48 shall have been approved by the four-year public or independent

1 institution of higher education, or unless called to partial or full
2 mobilization for State or federal active duty as a member of the
3 National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the
4 United States.

5 d. A student who is dismissed for academic or disciplinary
6 reasons from a four-year public or independent institution of higher
7 education shall no longer be eligible for a scholarship under the
8 New Jersey HonorScholars Program. If a student participating in
9 the program is dismissed for disciplinary reasons, the student shall
10 repay in full all amounts received under the program. The four-year
11 public or independent institution of higher education shall be
12 responsible for collecting the repayment, or the amount of any
13 overpayment or other improper payment, of any State awards under
14 the program, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.18A:71B-
15 10.

16 e. A scholarship at a four-year institution under the program
17 may be renewed upon the student's filing of a renewal financial aid
18 application and providing evidence that the student has satisfied the
19 requirements pursuant to this section.

20 f. A student who receives a scholarship at a four-year
21 institution under the program shall be eligible to take less than 12
22 credits in a semester if the student provides to the institution a
23 written note from a physician or other licensed health care
24 professional indicating the student's need to take a reduced number
25 of credits due to a physical or mental health condition. A student
26 who receives a medical exemption from the full-time course of
27 study requirement pursuant to this subsection shall be eligible for
28 additional semesters of eligibility for a New Jersey HonorScholars
29 Scholarship at a four-year institution, as necessary.

30
31 11. (New section) a. In addition to a student eligible for a
32 scholarship under the New Jersey HonorScholars Program pursuant
33 to subsection b. of section 10 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
34 the Legislature as this bill), a student who is receiving a county
35 college scholarship under the New Jersey HonorScholars Program
36 shall be eligible for a scholarship under the program at a State four-
37 year public or independent institution of higher education for the
38 student's third and fourth academic years pursuant to subsection b.
39 of this section. The student shall be eligible for a scholarship under
40 the program for up to four semesters, excluding summer sessions.

41 b. The student shall be eligible for a New Jersey HonorScholars
42 Program scholarship for the student's third academic year of study
43 if the student: attained an associates degree from a New Jersey
44 county college; except as otherwise provided pursuant to subsection
45 c. of section 2 and subsection b. of section 3 of P.L.2008,
46 c.124 (C.18A:71B-85.1 and C.18A:71B-85.2), received a county
47 college scholarship under the New Jersey HonorScholars Program
48 for each semester of study in the county college or was eligible for

1 but did not receive a scholarship because the student's tuition was
2 fully covered by other State or federal need-based grants or merit
3 scholarships, or was eligible for but did not receive a scholarship
4 under the New Jersey HonorScholars Program because the student
5 was enrolled while a high school student in county college courses
6 and received an associates degree in accordance with a joint
7 program offered by the student's school district and a county
8 college; attains a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.25
9 upon graduation from a county college; enrolls in a baccalaureate
10 degree program at a New Jersey four-year public or independent
11 institution of higher education for the third academic year of study
12 in the academic year immediately following the student's attainment
13 of an associates degree; and meets the criteria set forth in
14 subsection c. of section 10 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
15 Legislature as this bill).

16 c. The provisions of subsections d. and e. of section 10 of
17 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) shall
18 apply to a student receiving a New Jersey HonorScholars Program
19 scholarship pursuant to this section.
20

21 12. (New section) The policies and procedures set forth in the
22 Statewide transfer agreement established pursuant to P.L.2007,
23 c.175 (C.18A:62-46 et seq.) shall govern the transfer of academic
24 credits awarded by a county college to a New Jersey HonorScholars
25 Program student who subsequently enrolls in a four-year public
26 institution of higher education and is participating in the New
27 Jersey HonorScholars Program at the institution.
28

29 13. (New section) Nothing in sections 10 and 11 of
30 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) shall
31 be construed to require a four-year public or independent institution
32 of higher education to admit a student eligible for a scholarship
33 under the New Jersey HonorScholars Program or to waive its
34 admission standards and application procedures.
35

36 14. (New section) a. In September of each school year, the
37 board of education of a school district or the chief school
38 administrator of a nonpublic school shall notify each student in the
39 11th grade who is ranked in the top 15.0% of the class of his
40 potential to qualify for a scholarship to a four-year public or
41 independent institution of higher education under the New Jersey
42 HonorScholars Program if the student's class rank at the time of
43 graduation is within the top 10.0% of the graduating class.

44 A student in the 12th grade shall be notified of conditional
45 eligibility for the New Jersey HonorScholars Program by the Higher
46 Education Student Assistance Authority.

47 b. The notification by the board of education or chief school
48 administrator required pursuant to subsection a. of this section shall

1 be communicated via regular or electronic mail or sent home with
2 the student and include a brief description of the New Jersey
3 HonorScholars Program and the requirements for eligibility for the
4 program.

5
6 15. (New section) a. In the case of a student who is receiving a
7 scholarship under the NJ STARS Program and is in the first
8 academic year of study on the effective date of
9 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the
10 scholarship shall be administered and the student shall remain
11 eligible for the program in accordance with the provisions of
12 P.L.2004, c.59 (C.18A:71B-81 et seq.) as the same read before the
13 effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
14 as this bill).

15 b. In the case of a student who is receiving a scholarship under
16 the NJ STARS II Program and is in the third academic year of study
17 on the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
18 Legislature as this bill), or was eligible to receive an NJ STARS II
19 scholarship for the third academic year of study but did not receive
20 the scholarship because the student's tuition or tuition and fees, as
21 applicable, was fully covered by other available forms of State and
22 federal need-based grants and merit scholarships, the scholarship
23 shall be administered and the student shall remain eligible for the
24 program in accordance with the provisions of P.L.2005,
25 c.359 (C.18A:71B-86.1 et seq.) as the same read before the
26 effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
27 as this bill).

28
29 16. (New section) a. Not later than two years following the
30 effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
31 as this bill) and annually thereafter, the Higher Education Student
32 Assistance Authority shall prepare and submit to the Legislature
33 and the Governor a report on the implementation of the New Jersey
34 HonorScholars Program. The report shall, for each institution of
35 higher education, set forth statistics on and include an analysis of
36 student participation in the program at the institution, the amounts
37 of funding provided under the program to students enrolled at the
38 institution, the amounts of funding made available to those
39 participating students from State sources other than the New Jersey
40 HonorScholars Program and from federal and institutional sources,
41 and such other factors as the authority deems to be necessary or
42 useful to the evaluation of the program.

43 b. The Higher Education Student Assistance Authority shall
44 establish appropriate criteria, procedures, and guidelines for
45 awarding scholarships under the New Jersey HonorScholars
46 Program to eligible students in accordance with the provisions of
47 P.L.2004, c.59 (C.18A:71B-81 et seq.) and
48 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill). The

1 authority shall adopt in accordance with the "Administrative
2 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and
3 regulations as may be necessary to implement the provisions of
4 P.L.2004, c.59 (C.18A:71B-81 et seq.) and
5 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

6
7 17. The following sections are repealed:

8 Section 5 of P.L.2008, c.124 (C.18A:71B-85.4);

9 Section 3 of P.L.2014, c.55 (C.18A:71B-85.5a);

10 Section 6 of P.L.2012, c.8 (C.18A:71B-85.7);

11 Section 6 of P.L.2004, c.59 (C.18A:71B-86);

12 Sections 1 through 7 of P.L.2005, c.359 (C.18A:71B-86.1
13 through C.18A:71B-86.7);

14 Section 9 of P.L.2008, c.124 (C.18A:71B-86.4a); and

15 Section 7 of P.L.2012, c.8 (C.18A:71B-86.4b).

16
17 18. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first be
18 applicable to the 2020-2021 academic year.

21 STATEMENT

22
23 This bill establishes the New Jersey HonorScholars Program and
24 provides for the program to be administered by the Higher Education
25 Student Assistance Authority.

26 Under the bill, the New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward
27 Scholarship (NJ STARS) Program is renamed, and is to become part
28 of the New Jersey HonorScholars Program. Although the name of the
29 NJ STARS scholarship is changed, the amount of the scholarship a
30 county college student is eligible to receive remains the same. The
31 eligibility criteria for the county college scholarship also remains the
32 same, except the bill permits students to be eligible for the scholarship
33 if their class rank at the completion of the 11th or 12th grade is in the
34 top 20 percent of their high school class. Currently, a student must
35 have a class rank in the top 15 percent of the class at the completion of
36 the 11th or 12th grade.

37 Under the bill, the New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward
38 Scholarship II (NJ STARS II) Program is repealed. In place of NJ
39 STARS II, the bill provides for the New Jersey HonorScholars
40 Program to offer scholarships to students to attend a State four-year
41 public or independent institution of higher education. A scholarship to
42 a four-year institution under the New Jersey HonorScholars Program is
43 to be applied to the cost of tuition. A student is eligible to receive a
44 scholarship of \$2,000 for each semester of enrollment.

45 Two categories of students are eligible for a New Jersey
46 HonorScholars Program scholarship to a four-year institution. A
47 student who graduated from a county college and received a county
48 college scholarship under the New Jersey HonorScholars Program is

1 eligible to receive a scholarship for the third and fourth academic years
2 at a four-year institution. The student is required to have a cumulative
3 grade point average of at least 3.25 upon graduation from a county
4 college. This student is eligible for a scholarship for up to four
5 semesters, excluding summer sessions. Also, a student who graduated
6 in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating class is eligible to
7 receive a New Jersey HonorScholars Program scholarship to a four-
8 year institution for all four years. These students are eligible for a
9 scholarship under the program for up to eight semesters, excluding
10 summer sessions.

11 To be eligible to participate in the program and receive a
12 scholarship to a four-year institution, the bill provides that a student
13 must:

14 (1) have annual family income, both taxable and non-taxable, as
15 derived from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
16 for the academic year, of less than \$250,000;

17 (2) be a State resident pursuant to guidelines established by the
18 authority;

19 (3) have applied for all other available forms of State and federal
20 need-based grants and merit scholarships, exclusive of loans, the full
21 amount of which grants and scholarships is to be applied to tuition to
22 reduce the amount of any scholarship that the student receives
23 pursuant to the program;

24 (4) be enrolled in a full-time course of study and maintain a 3.0
25 grade point average; and

26 (5) maintain continuous enrollment in a full-time course of study,
27 unless on medical leave due to illness of the student or a member of
28 the student's immediate family or emergency leave because of a family
29 emergency, which medical or emergency leave must be approved by
30 the four-year institution of higher education, or unless called to partial
31 or full mobilization for State or federal active duty as a member of the
32 National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the
33 United States.

34 The bill includes a grandfather provision that provides that a
35 student receiving a scholarship under the NJ STARS Program and is in
36 the first academic year of study at a county college on the effective
37 date of the bill is to continue to receive the scholarship in accordance
38 with the law governing NJ STARS as it read prior to the effective date
39 of this bill. Similarly, a student receiving a scholarship under the NJ
40 STARS II program who is in the third academic year of study at the
41 institution of higher education will remain eligible for a scholarship
42 under the program in accordance with the law as it read prior to the
43 bill's effective date.