

ASSEMBLY, No. 1681

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JOHN J. BURZICHELLI

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Student Loan Lottery with winnings applying only to outstanding student loans.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** establishing the Student Loan Lottery and supplementing
2 P.L.1970, c.13.

3

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

6

7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 Outstanding student loan balances continue to reach new highs
9 year after year. These outstanding balances have an adverse effect
10 on our economy, as high monthly payments impact the credit of
11 students and affect their ability to buy homes, cars and other
12 consumer products and services. In addition to affecting their
13 buying power, these loans affect their ability to save, their career
14 choices after graduation, and in some cases, even their decision to
15 pursue higher education at all.

16 Tuition for higher education continue to increase, and many
17 recent graduates still struggle to find adequate employment in
18 today's economy. Moreover, many student loans end up in default,
19 compounding these negative consequences, to the students, lenders,
20 tax payers and the overall economy.

21 The negative consequences of burdensome student loans are
22 particularly demonstrable in New Jersey. Higher education is an
23 integral part of New Jersey's economy, contributing today to the
24 State's recovery from extremely challenging economic times and
25 building its economic and cultural future. Its institutions of higher
26 education play a significant role in contributing to the State's
27 collective economic well-being and quality of life. Higher
28 education benefits both the individual and the greater society and
29 economy.

30 New Jersey boasts one of the highest per-capita incomes in the
31 U.S., approximately 28 percent higher than the national average of
32 per capita incomes. Attainment of higher education is a major
33 factor behind personal and family income in New Jersey.
34 According to census data, 36 percent of people in New Jersey age
35 25 and older had a bachelor's degree or higher, versus the national
36 average of 29 percent.

37 Furthermore, New Jersey is the State where the premium on
38 educational attainment is the highest. In 2007, the difference in
39 median earnings between a high school diploma and a bachelor's
40 degree was approximately \$25,000 per year, the third highest gap in
41 the nation. Median earnings for those with graduate and
42 professional degrees are almost two and one half times that of high
43 school graduates and four times that of those who do not finish high
44 school. In brief, educational attainment, especially postsecondary
45 education, matters in New Jersey.

46 The benefits of higher education go beyond the impact on
47 individual income. Research demonstrates that for each one percent

1 increase in a metropolitan area's population with a college degree
2 there is a 2.3 percent increase in the region's per capita gross
3 domestic product.

4 Unfortunately, the costs of education continue to increase.
5 While colleges are often seen as having the option of raising
6 revenue through tuition and fee increases, it is clear that future
7 tuition increases, in a State which already has among the highest
8 tuition and fees in the nation, will create insurmountable hurdles for
9 many New Jersey families.

10 In New Jersey, 70 percent of graduating students graduated with
11 student debt in 2013, the fourth highest percentage of any state in
12 the U.S. Further, a large percentage of the population of
13 approximately 8.9 million people in New Jersey has student debt
14 outstanding. Student enrollment has risen historically and is
15 expected to continue to rise.

16 Notably, students are defaulting on their student debt. Data has
17 shown that 8.6 percent of all student loans in New Jersey were 90 or
18 more days late, the highest of any other type of loan, including
19 mortgages and credit cards. Furthermore, the above delinquency
20 rate for student loans is likely to understate actual delinquency rates
21 because a large share of these loans are currently in deferment, in
22 grace periods or in forbearance and therefore temporarily not in the
23 repayment cycle. The student loan crisis is ripe for a market-based
24 solution to mitigate adverse effects.

25 Therefore, it is in the best interest of this State and the residents
26 of this State that New Jersey establish a Student Loan Lottery,
27 wherein past and present students having student loans outstanding
28 and benefactors of these students, may purchase lottery tickets for
29 which the proceeds of any winnings are applied exclusively to pay
30 off or reduce the outstanding balance of the winning student's loan
31 or loans.

32

33 2. There is established in the Division of the State Lottery in
34 the Department of the Treasury the Student Loan Lottery. The State
35 Lottery Commission shall adopt rules and regulations pursuant to
36 the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L. 1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1
37 et seq.), necessary to effectuate the purposes of sections _ through _
38 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this
39 bill). Such rules and regulations shall include, but shall not be
40 limited to, the following provisions:

41 a. A ticket for the Student Loan Lottery may only be purchased
42 by a past or present student, or by a benefactor of a past or present
43 student who is purchasing a ticket for a specifically named student,
44 who has an outstanding student loan balance.

45 b. Before a student or his benefactor may purchase a ticket, the
46 student must register and supply details of his loan to the lottery,
47 which will seek and receive authentication of the student's loan

- 1 balances from the loan provider or lender service provider. Only
2 after the loan balance is authenticated is the student or the
3 benefactor eligible to purchase a ticket.
- 4 c. There is no limitation to the quantity of tickets purchased by
5 a student, except that the total amount of all tickets purchased by
6 the student cannot exceed 15 percent of his outstanding loan
7 balances. There is no limitation to the quantity of tickets a
8 benefactor may purchase.
- 9 d. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the Student Loan
10 Lottery tickets may be sold online, on the Internet.
- 11 e. Costs for each ticket shall not exceed \$3 per ticket.
- 12 f. The Student Loan Lottery may create pools with various
13 pay-out amounts for the Student Loan Lottery, which will close
14 when a pre-determined amount of money for that pool has been
15 raised or when a designated period of time has elapsed.
16 Alternatively, the Student Loan Lottery may open a pool without a
17 designated payout amount that closes after a designated period of
18 time. Upon the closure of each pool, a winner is selected by a
19 random- based selection system determined by the State Lottery
20 Commission which will be secured so that no person or entity can
21 control the selection of the winning ticket or has knowledge of the
22 winner beforehand. When each pool is closed, an identical pool can
23 be automatically opened for future ticket purchases.
- 24 g. There shall be at least one winner upon closure of every
25 game. If the outstanding loan balance of the winner is less than the
26 amount of the payout, a second winner is chosen to receive the
27 balance of the payout amount, and in similar manner a third or
28 subsequent winner until the entire payout of the pool is made.
- 29 h. All of the payouts of all of the pools are required to be paid
30 directly to the lenders or the lender service providers to pay off or
31 reduce the winning student's outstanding loan balances. The
32 winning students or their benefactors receive no portion of the
33 payouts.
- 34 i. The payoff to the winner of each pool shall be the total
35 amount in each pool when it closes less an amount equal to 25
36 percent of the pool total when it closes, for expenses and profit of
37 the Student Loan Lottery developer and its
38 administrators/managers.
- 39 j. Before dispensing the payoff, the Student Loan Lottery will
40 request and receive verification from the lender or lender service
41 provider of the exact amount of the outstanding loan balance then
42 due.
- 43 k. Upon final determination of the winner and the payout, the
44 winner will be notified and the result posted on the Student Loan
45 Lottery's website and on other public media.
- 46 The Student Loan Lottery shall report monthly to the Governor
47 and the Legislature the pools setup and their balances, the pools
48 closed and their respective payouts, and the total amount of student

1 loans paid off with pool payouts, and shall make an annual report,
2 which shall include a full and complete statement of lottery
3 revenues, prize disbursements and other expenses, to the Governor
4 and the Legislature, and including such recommendations for
5 changes in this act as it deems necessary or desirable, pursuant to
6 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1).

7 For purposes of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
8 Legislature as this bill, “Benefactor” means any person or entity
9 who wishes to purchase a lottery ticket for a past or present student
10 having an outstanding student loan balance, and is not restricted to a
11 spouse or family member, and may include corporations, profit and
12 non-profit, trusts and any other legal entities.

13
14 3. The State Lottery Commission is hereby directed, to
15 establish and put into operation the Student Loan Lottery as soon as
16 is reasonably possible, such Student Loan Lottery to be operated
17 pursuant to and having the features and provisions as set forth in
18 section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
19 as this bill). In determining how to establish this Student Loan
20 Lottery, the Commission shall give priority of consideration to any
21 provider or developer who may have already designed a system
22 which contains, among other provisions, the features and provisions
23 as set forth in section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
24 Legislature as this bill) and who has a Patent or Patent Pending on
25 such a system.

26
27 4. Any developer or provider and administrator or manager
28 who contracts with the State of New Jersey or any of its agencies to
29 provide and manage the Student Loan Lottery shall not be required
30 to pay the State or any of its agencies any license or other fees for
31 the right to provide this system and its services to the State.

32
33 5. There is hereby created and established in the Department of
34 the Treasury a separate fund, to be known as the “Student Loan
35 Lottery Fund,” to be deposited in such depositories as the State
36 Treasurer may select. Such fund shall consist of all revenues
37 received from the sale of Student Loan Lottery tickets or shares,
38 and all other moneys credited or transferred thereto from any other
39 fund or source pursuant to law.

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41 6. This act shall take effect on the first day of the ninth month
42 next following enactment, except the State Lottery Commission
43 may take any anticipatory administrative action in advance as shall
44 be necessary for the implementation of this act.

STATEMENT

This bill would establish the Student Loan Lottery, a lottery system that would exclusively provide winnings for the payment of outstanding student loans. The Student Loan Lottery would be operated and overseen by the State Lottery Commission within the Division of the State Lottery in the Department of the Treasury, but may include contracting with private developers for operation of the system.

The Student Loan Lottery would provide a market-based solution for rising college expenses and burdensome student loans.