

ASSEMBLY, No. 2170

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI

District 33 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman SHAVONDA E. SUMTER

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman DeAngelo and Assemblywoman Chaparro

SYNOPSIS

Allows students to use certain grant awards during summer session.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** concerning the use of certain student assistance grants and
2 supplementing chapters 71 and 71B of Title 18A of the New
3 Jersey Statutes.

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

7
8 1. a. A student may elect to use a portion of a tuition aid grant
9 award to enroll in the summer session that follows the academic
10 year for courses that will fulfill graduation requirements or that will
11 award credits in the student's academic major. Prior to the
12 beginning of the academic year, a student shall notify the authority
13 of the student's intent to use a portion of the tuition aid grant award
14 for the summer session, and the authority shall adjust the amount of
15 the tuition aid grant award that will be disbursed during the
16 academic year accordingly and notify the student that using a
17 portion of the tuition aid grant award during the summer session
18 will decrease the amount of the award that will be disbursed during
19 the academic year by a specific dollar amount each semester.

20 b. For each institution that participates in the tuition aid grant
21 program, the authority shall annually report:

22 (1) the number of students who did and did not use a portion of
23 a tuition aid grant award to enroll in the summer session; and

24 (2) the number and percent of students who did and did not use
25 a portion of a tuition aid grant award to enroll in the summer
26 session who graduated within 100 percent and 150 percent of
27 normal completion time.

28 c. The use of a tuition aid grant award for a summer session
29 shall not count towards the number of academic years for which a
30 student is eligible to receive a grant pursuant to the provisions of
31 subsection b. of N.J.S.18A:71B-20.

32

33 2. a. A student may elect to use a portion of an opportunity
34 grant to enroll in the summer session that follows the academic year
35 for courses that will fulfill graduation requirements or that will
36 award credits in the student's academic major. Prior to the
37 beginning of the academic year, a student shall notify the Office of
38 the Secretary of Higher Education of the student's intent to use a
39 portion of the opportunity grant for the summer session, and the
40 secretary shall adjust the amount of the opportunity grant that will
41 be disbursed during the academic year accordingly and notify the
42 student that using a portion of the opportunity grant during the
43 summer session will decrease the amount of the grant that will be
44 disbursed during the academic year by a specific dollar amount each
45 semester.

46 b. For each institution that participates in the educational
47 opportunity assistance program, the secretary shall annually report:

1 (1) the number of students who did and did not use a portion of
2 an opportunity grant to enroll in the summer session; and

3 (2) the number and percent of students who did and did not use
4 a portion of an opportunity grant to enroll in the summer session
5 who graduated within 100 percent and 150 percent of normal
6 completion time.

7 c. The use of an opportunity grant for a summer session shall
8 not count towards the number of years for which a student is
9 eligible to receive a grant pursuant to the provisions of section 10 of
10 P.L.1968, c.142 (C.18A:71-37).

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12 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
13 the first full academic year following the date of enactment.

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16 STATEMENT

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18 This bill provides that a student may elect to use a portion of a
19 tuition aid grant (TAG) award, or an opportunity grant funded through
20 the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF), during the summer session
21 following the academic year for courses that fulfill graduation
22 requirements or award credits in the student's academic major. The
23 student would be responsible for notifying the Higher Education
24 Student Assistance Authority (HESAA), in the case of TAG, or the
25 Office of the Secretary of Higher Education, in the case of EOF, of the
26 intent to use a portion of the award during the summer. HESAA or the
27 secretary, as appropriate, would adjust the amount of the student's
28 award that will be disbursed during the academic year, and notify the
29 student that using a portion of the grant during the summer session will
30 reduce the amount of the award that will be disbursed during the
31 academic year. HESAA or the secretary, as appropriate, would also be
32 required to annually report the number of students who did and did not
33 use a portion of a grant award to enroll in courses during the summer,
34 and the number and percent of these students who graduated within
35 100 percent and 150 percent of normal completion time.

36 This bill implements a recommendation of the College
37 Affordability Study Commission which released its final report in
38 September 2016.