

ASSEMBLY, No. 2691

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JOHN ARMATO

District 2 (Atlantic)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblyman WAYNE P. DEANGELO

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Mazzeo

SYNOPSIS

Provides tuition fee waiver apprenticeship courses.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/13/2020)

1 **AN ACT** concerning apprenticeship tuition fees and supplementing
2 chapter 62 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. As used in this act:

8 “Eligible person” means an individual whose gross aggregate
9 household income at the time of admission to a New Jersey public
10 institution of higher education or county vocational school providing
11 post-secondary vocational education is below the State household
12 median income.

13 “Gross aggregate household income” means the total annual
14 income of all members of a household, from whatever source derived,
15 including, but not limited to, pension, annuity, retirement and Social
16 Security benefits received during the taxable year.

17 “Registered apprenticeship” means an apprenticeship in a program
18 providing to each trainee combined classroom and on-the-job
19 training under the direct and close supervision of a highly skilled
20 worker in an occupation recognized as an apprenticeable trade, and
21 registered by the Office of Apprenticeship of the United States
22 Department of Labor and meeting the standards established by that
23 office.

24 “State household median income” means the point that divides the
25 gross aggregate household income distribution into halves, one-half
26 with income above the median and the other with income below the
27 median as determined by the United States Census Bureau American
28 Community Survey. The median is based on the income distribution
29 of all households, including those with no income in the State.

30 “Tuition” means the charges imposed by a New Jersey public
31 institution of higher education or county vocational school providing
32 post-secondary vocational education for enrollment at the institution
33 or school.

34
35 2. a. An eligible person shall be permitted to attend, tuition-
36 free, courses available at any public institution of higher education
37 or county vocational school which are qualified to serve as the
38 classroom training or education component of a registered
39 apprenticeship program in which the person is participating as a
40 registered apprentice if:

41 (1) tuition costs are not covered by an employer through
42 employment benefits;

43 (2) the person completes a Free Application for Federal Student
44 Aid each year within the established deadlines and has exhausted all
45 financial aid assistance; and

46 (3) the person retains employment as an active registered
47 apprentice under the registered apprenticeship program and

1 maintains satisfactory academic progress to qualify for renewal of
2 the tuition waiver.

3 b. The State shall reimburse a public institution of higher
4 education or county vocational school for the tuition cost of each
5 eligible person who enrolls in the institution pursuant to the
6 provisions of this section.

7
8 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
9 the first full academic year following the date of enactment.

10

11

12

STATEMENT

13

14 This bill requires public institutions of higher education to waive
15 the tuition fees of certain courses which are qualified to serve as the
16 classroom training or education component of a registered
17 apprenticeship for eligible persons whose gross aggregate household
18 income is below the State's median annual income.

19 Under the bill, an eligible person is an individual whose gross
20 aggregate household income at the time of admission to a New Jersey
21 public institution of higher education or county vocational school is
22 below the State household median income as determined by the
23 United States Census Bureau American Community Survey. The
24 person is to be deemed eligible for a tuition fee waiver if:

25 1. tuition costs are not covered by the employer through
26 employment benefits;

27 2. the person completes a Free Application for Federal Student
28 Aid each year and has exhausted all financial aid assistance; and

29 3. the person retains employment as an active registered
30 apprentice under the registered apprenticeship program and
31 maintains satisfactory academic progress to qualify for renewal of
32 the tuition waiver.