

ASSEMBLY, No. 3805

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 16, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JOHN ARMATO

District 2 (Atlantic)

Assemblyman ANDREW ZWICKER

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

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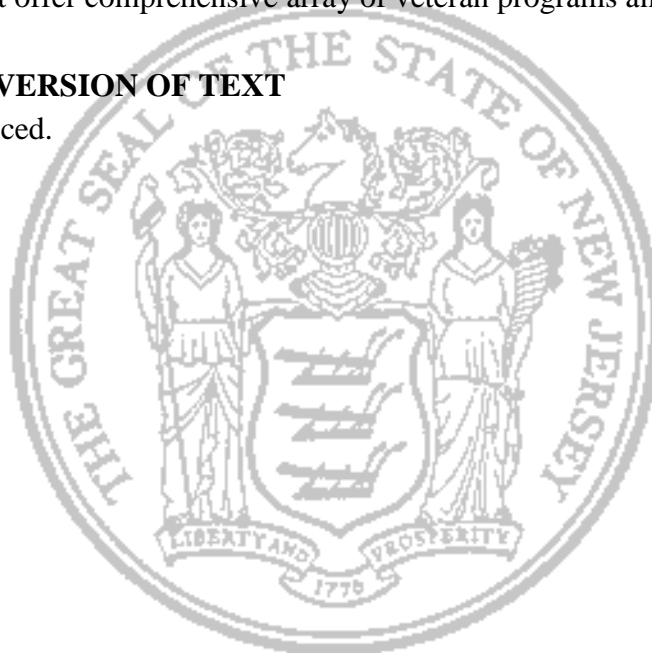
Assemblywoman Murphy, Assemblyman DeAngelo, Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson, Assemblymen Benson, Scharfenberger, Moen, Space, Wirths, Johnson, Freiman, Assemblywomen Vainieri Huttle, Swain and Timberlake

SYNOPSIS

Establishes annual grant program to recognize institutions of higher education that offer comprehensive array of veteran programs and services.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/20/2021)

1 AN ACT establishing a Troops to College Grant Program and
2 amending P.L.2009, c.125.

3

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

6

7 1. Section 2 of P.L.2009, c.125 (C.18A:3B-42) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 2. a. The **【New Jersey Commission on】** Secretary of Higher
10 Education, in consultation with the Department of Military and
11 Veterans' Affairs, shall establish the Troops to College Program.
12 The purpose of the program shall be to assist New Jersey's **【public】**
13 institutions of higher education in coordinating the provision of a
14 comprehensive array of services to assist veterans in making the
15 transition into the college classroom. The services may include, but
16 need not be limited to, assistance in applying for State and federal
17 student financial aid, counseling resources, a campus veterans'
18 assistance officer to provide a single point of contact for
19 information on the institution's benefits and programs for veterans,
20 and an online resource to consolidate pertinent information
21 specifically for veterans attending that institution.

22 b. The **【commission】** secretary in implementing the Troops to
23 College Program shall include on its Internet site information to
24 assist veterans in accessing the higher education opportunities that
25 exist in the State. The information shall include, but need not be
26 limited to:

27 (1) contact information for the campus veterans' assistance
28 officer at each of the **【public】** institutions of higher education; and

29 (2) information on the array of programs and services available
30 to veterans at each of the **【public】** institutions of higher education.

31 c. The secretary, in consultation with the department, shall
32 establish a Troops to College Grant Program. Under the program,
33 the secretary shall annually select up to three institutions of higher
34 education to receive a \$150,000 Troops to College grant. In order
35 to receive a grant, an institution shall demonstrate that it is
36 providing a comprehensive array of services, benefits, and programs
37 for veterans attending the institution. In awarding a grant to an
38 institution, the secretary shall consider the following factors:

39 (1) the total number of self-reporting veterans enrolled in the
40 institution;

41 (2) the existence of a veterans' affairs office at the institution
42 and the number of staff assigned to the office;

43 (3) whether the institution has entered into the Department of
44 Defense Voluntary Education Partnership Memorandum of
45 Understanding;

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 (4) whether the institution’s tuition and fees are at or below the
2 minimum limits established by the “Post-9/11 Veterans Educational
3 Assistance Act of 2008,” Pub.L.110-252 (38 U.S.C. s.3301 et seq.);

4 (5) whether the institution participates in the Yellow Ribbon
5 Program of the “Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of
6 2008,” Pub.L.110-252 (38 U.S.C. s.3301 et seq.);

7 (6) whether the institution waives its application fee and offers
8 priority registration to veterans;

9 (7) the level of academic and staff support provided to veterans
10 enrolled in the institution;

11 (8) the number and type of extracurricular activities designed
12 for and offered to veterans enrolled in the institution;

13 (9) the amount of institutional funds allocated to support
14 veterans enrolled in the institution, including the number of
15 scholarships offered to veteran students;

16 (10) whether the institution offers veteran housing or provides
17 an area on campus where veteran students may meet and discuss
18 issues of common interest;

19 (11) the course completion rate of self-reporting veterans
20 enrolled in the institution;

21 (12) the institution’s retention and graduation rates for self-
22 reporting veterans enrolled in the institution;

23 (13) the student loan default rate for self-reporting veterans
24 enrolled in the institution; and

25 (14) the employment and salary status of self-reporting veterans
26 six years following graduation from the institution.

27 (cf: P.L.2009, c.125, s.2)

28
29 2. This act shall take effect in the first full academic year
30 following enactment.

31 32 33 STATEMENT

34
35 This bill establishes an annual grant program under the State’s
36 Troops to College Program which was established in 2009 to assist
37 New Jersey’s public institutions of higher education in coordinating
38 the provision of a comprehensive array of services to assist veterans
39 in making the transition into the college classroom. This bill will
40 recognize and support those efforts through the establishment of an
41 annual grant program that will be available to both public and
42 independent institutions of higher education

43 \Under the bill, the program will be developed by the Secretary
44 of Higher Education, in consultation with the Department of
45 Military and Veterans’ Affairs. Under the program, the secretary
46 will annually select up to three institutions of higher education to
47 receive a \$150,000 Troops to College grant. In order to receive a
48 grant, an institution must demonstrate that it is offering a

A3805 ARMATO, ZWICKER

4

1 comprehensive array of services, benefits, and programs for
2 veterans attending the institution.

3 The bill outlines a number of factors that the secretary will
4 consider in awarding the grants that include among others: the total
5 number of self-reporting veterans enrolled in the institution; the
6 existence of a veterans' affairs office at the institution and the
7 number of staff assigned to the office; whether the institution
8 participates in the Yellow Ribbon Program of the "Post-9/11
9 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008"; the amount of
10 institutional funds allocated to support veterans enrolled in the
11 institution, including the number of scholarships offered to veteran
12 students; whether the institution offers veteran housing or provides
13 an area on campus where veteran students may meet and discuss
14 issues of common interest; the institution's retention and graduation
15 rates for self-reporting veterans enrolled in the institution; and the
16 employment and salary status of self-reporting veterans six years
17 following graduation from the institution.