

ASSEMBLY, No. 3927

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED APRIL 13, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RYAN E. PETERS

District 8 (Atlantic, Burlington and Camden)

Assemblywoman JEAN STANFIELD

District 8 (Atlantic, Burlington and Camden)

SYNOPSIS

Requires institution of higher education to provide refund or credit to students for unused on-campus student housing and meal plans due to COVID-19 public health emergency.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** concerning refunds of student housing and meal plan fees
2 and supplementing chapter 3B of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

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

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8 1. a. As used in this act, “qualified student expenses” mean
9 payments made by a student for on-campus student housing and a
10 meal plan, or such payments made on behalf of a student through a
11 student loan.

12 b. Each institution of higher education shall provide a pro rata
13 credit or refund of qualified student expenses on student accounts
14 for any closure of on-campus student housing that occurred in
15 response to the COVID-19 public health emergency of 2020. The
16 credit or refund shall reflect the number of days between the date
17 the institution required a student to vacate on-campus student
18 housing and the originally scheduled end-of-occupancy date for the
19 student housing.

20 c. In the event that the institution of higher education provides
21 a credit towards an upcoming semester, the student may request that
22 the credit be fully refunded if:

23 (1) the student does not re-enroll in the institution of higher
24 education in the next operating semester of the institution; or

25 (2) the student re-enrolls in the institution of higher education in
26 the next operating semester of the institution but does not use on-
27 campus housing or a meal plan.

28 d. Each institution of higher education shall notify its students
29 of the credit or refund available pursuant to this section within 30
30 days of the effective date of this act.

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32 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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37 In response to the public health emergency presented by COVID-
38 19, colleges across the State closed dining halls and student
39 housing. This bill requires each institution of higher education to
40 provide a pro rata credit or refund of qualified student expenses on
41 student accounts for any closure of on-campus student housing that
42 occurred in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency of
43 2020. “Qualified student expenses” are defined to mean payments
44 made by a student for on-campus student housing and a meal plan,
45 or such payments made on behalf of a student through a student
46 loan. The bill provides that the credit or refund must reflect the
47 number of days between the date the institution required a student

1 to vacate on-campus student housing and the originally scheduled
2 end-of-occupancy date for student housing.

3 The bill further provides that, in the event that the institution
4 provides a credit towards an upcoming semester, the student may
5 request that the credit be fully refunded if:

6 (1) the student does not re-enroll in the institution in the next
7 operating semester of the institution, or

8 (2) the student re-enrolls in the institution in the next operating
9 semester of the institution but does not use on-campus housing or a
10 meal plan.