

ASSEMBLY, No. 4973

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 12, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI

District 33 (Hudson)

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Provides in-State tuition status to certain veterans and family members who attend public institutions of higher education during period of mandatory remote instruction due to public health emergencies.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/12/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning the residency status of veterans attending
2 public institutions of higher education and amending P.L.2015,
3 c.32.

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

7
8 1. Section 2 of P.L.2015, c.32 (C.18A:62-4.1b) is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 2. a. (1) A veteran or covered individual who is living in New
11 Jersey and is attending a public institution of higher education in
12 New Jersey shall be regarded as a resident of the State for the
13 purpose of determining tuition, regardless of the veteran or covered
14 individual's state of residence.

15 (2) During any period in which a public institution of higher
16 education requires students to complete coursework through remote
17 instruction due to a public health emergency, a veteran or covered
18 individual who attends the public institution of higher education,
19 but is living outside of New Jersey during the period of remote
20 instruction, shall be regarded as a resident of the State for the
21 purpose of determining tuition, regardless of the veteran or covered
22 individual's state of residence.

23 b. As used in this section:

24 "Covered individual" means:

25 (1) an individual who is entitled to educational assistance under
26 provisions of the federal "Post-9/11 Educational Assistance"
27 program (38 U.S.C. s.3311(b)(9) or 3319) by virtue of such
28 individual's relationship to a veteran ; and

29 (2) an individual who is entitled to educational assistance under
30 provisions of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs'
31 "Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program" (38 U.S.C.
32 s.3100 et seq.) effective for courses, semesters, or terms that begin
33 after March 1, 2019.

34 "Veteran" means a person who has served on active duty in the
35 Uniformed Services of the United States and who was discharged or
36 released and who qualifies for educational assistance under the
37 federal "All-Volunteer Force Educational Assistance Program" (38
38 U.S.C. s.3001 et seq.) or "Post-9/11 Educational Assistance"
39 program (38 U.S.C. s.3301 et seq.).

40 (cf: P.L.2019, c.264, s.1)

41
42 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

43
44 STATEMENT

45
46 Under the "New Jersey Tuition Equality for America's Military

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 (NJTEAM) Act,” P.L.2015, c. 32 (C.18A:62-4.1a et seq.), a veteran
2 or other “covered individual,” such as a veteran’s spouse or child,
3 who qualifies for certain federal educational assistance, resides in
4 New Jersey, and attends a public institution of higher education, is
5 considered to be a State resident for tuition purposes and thereby
6 eligible to pay an in-State tuition rate regardless of the individual’s
7 state of residence.

8 Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, public institutions of higher
9 education have required students to complete coursework through
10 remote instruction. This bill amends the NJTEAM Act to allow
11 veterans and covered individuals to continue to pay in-State tuition
12 during any period of mandatory remote instruction due to a public
13 health emergency, even if they are living outside of the State during
14 the period of remote instruction. This will allow those who benefit
15 from the provisions of the NJTEAM Act to continue to receive in-
16 State tuition while they are temporarily out-of-state due to the
17 public health emergency.