

SENATE, No. 560

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator FRED H. MADDEN, JR.

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Greenstein

SYNOPSIS

Eliminates eligibility time limit on tuition benefits for spouses of certain public safety workers killed in performance of their duties.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** concerning eligibility for certain tuition benefits and
2 amending N.J.S. 18A:71B-23.

3

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

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7 1. N.J.S. 18A:71B-23 is amended to read as follows:

8 18A:71B-23. Any child or surviving spouse of a member or
9 officer of a New Jersey volunteer fire company, volunteer first aid
10 or rescue squad or municipal fire, police, county police or park
11 police department, State fire service or of the division of State
12 police, or of a permanent, active and full-time officer employee of
13 this State or any political subdivision thereof holding the following
14 titles: State investigator, correction officer, recruit, senior
15 correction officer, sergeant, lieutenant, captain, correction officer
16 duty keeper, court attendant and sheriff's officer, court attendant
17 and sheriff's officer lieutenant, court attendant and sheriff's officer
18 captain, court attendant and sheriff's officer deputy chief,
19 prosecutor's detective, prosecutor's investigator, narcotics officer,
20 marine patrolman, senior marine patrolman, principal marine
21 patrolman, chief, bureau of marine law enforcement, or who is an
22 inspector, assistant, technician, supervisor or superintendent with
23 respect to the enforcement and regulation of weights and measures,
24 or civil defense or disaster control worker, which member, officer
25 or worker was killed in the performance of his duties as a member
26 of such company, squad or fire or police department or division, or
27 worker in a civil defense or disaster control unit, upon such child or
28 surviving spouse being accepted to pursue a course of
29 undergraduate study in any public institution of higher education of
30 this State, as enumerated in N.J.S.18A:62-1, shall, while enrolled as
31 an undergraduate student in good standing at the institution, have
32 the tuition paid by the State; or upon that child or surviving spouse
33 being accepted to pursue a course of undergraduate study at any
34 independent institution of higher education located in the State,
35 shall, while enrolled as an undergraduate in good standing at that
36 independent institution of higher education, have that part of the
37 tuition which is not more than the highest tuition charged at the
38 public institutions of higher education in this State, enumerated in
39 N.J.S.18A:62-1, paid by the State.

40 Eligibility for this program shall be limited to a period of **【**eight
41 years from the date of death of the member, officer of worker, in the
42 case of a surviving spouse, and**】** eight years following graduation
43 from high school, in the case of a child, pursuant to rules and
44 regulations established by the authority. There shall be no time
45 limit on eligibility for this program in the case of a surviving
46 spouse.

47 (cf: N.J.S. 18A:71B-23)

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 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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6 This bill eliminates the eligibility time limit on tuition benefits
7 for spouses of certain public safety workers killed in the
8 performance of their duties.

9 Under current law, the children or surviving spouses of certain
10 public safety workers, such as members of police and fire
11 departments, who are killed in the performance of their duties may
12 be eligible for a higher education tuition benefit. To be eligible, the
13 child or spouse must be enrolled in good standing at an
14 undergraduate program in the State. The State will pay full tuition
15 costs to a public institution of higher education and full or partial
16 tuition costs to an independent institution of higher education.
17 Current law limits eligibility to eight years following the death of
18 the worker, in the case of a spouse, and eight years following high
19 school graduation, in the case of a child.