

SENATE, No. 799

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM

District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Gopal

SYNOPSIS

Requires public institutions of higher education to temporarily suspend collection of tuition and other payments from students impacted by shutdown of federal government.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



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

d. As used in this section, “affected employee” means a federal employee who, during a federal government shutdown, has been required to work as a federal employee without pay or has been furloughed as a federal employee without pay. “Affected employee” also means an employee of a contractor with the federal government whose pay was suspended during a federal government shutdown as a result of that shutdown.

2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall be retroactive to December 22, 2018.

46 This bill provides that in the event of a full or partial shutdown of
47 the federal government that results in the disruption of payment to
48 some of its employees, a public institution of higher education must

1 temporarily suspend the collection of payment for outstanding tuition,
2 fees, or room and board of a student who is an affected employee or of
3 a student who is the dependent of an affected employee. The student
4 must self-identify to the institution of higher education at which the
5 student is enrolled as an affected employee, or as a dependent of an
6 affected employee. The student must also provide such documentation
7 as the institution requires to prove the employment of the student,
8 parent, or guardian by a federal agency, department, or contractor
9 affected by the shutdown.

10 The public institution of higher education must work
11 collaboratively with an affected employee to develop a repayment plan
12 to be used after the shutdown ends. The institution must ensure that
13 the balance owed by the student does not accrue interest during the
14 shutdown, and the institution is barred from assessing any penalty or
15 fine for nonpayment during the shutdown and in the 90 days following
16 the shutdown. Any such penalty or fine assessed prior to the bill's
17 enactment must be voided.

18 The bill defines "affected employee" as a federal employee who,
19 during a federal government shutdown, has been required to work
20 without pay or been furloughed without pay. "Affected employee"
21 also means an employee of a contractor with the federal government
22 whose pay was suspended during a shutdown.

23 The bill is retroactive to December 22, 2018.