

SENATE, No. 808

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM

District 31 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Outstanding Scholars Recruitment Program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** establishing the Outstanding Scholars Recruitment
2 Program and supplementing chapter 71B of Title 18A of the New
3 Jersey Statutes.

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

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8 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
9 “Outstanding Scholars Recruitment Program Act.”

10
11 2. As used in this act:

12 “Authority” means the Higher Education Student Assistance
13 Authority established pursuant to N.J.S.18A:71A-1 et seq.

14 “Program” means the Outstanding Scholars Recruitment
15 Program.

16
17 3. There is hereby created the Outstanding Scholars
18 Recruitment Program for students at the State’s public and
19 independent institutions of higher education. It shall be the duty of
20 the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority to administer
21 the program.

22
23 4. a. The Outstanding Scholars Recruitment Program shall
24 provide public and independent institutions of higher education
25 with campus-based funding to support scholarships to recruit high
26 achieving New Jersey students as measured by class rank and SAT
27 scores. Under the program the State shall pay up to 70 percent of
28 the scholarship award at a public institution and up to 40 percent at
29 an independent institution, with each participating institution
30 supporting the balance of the scholarship awards through
31 institutional funds. The authority shall provide funding to an
32 institution in accordance with a contract entered into between the
33 authority and the institution.

34 b. The program shall provide an annual scholarship award up
35 to a maximum of \$7,500 to a student with an SAT score above
36 1,500 and a class rank in the top 5 percent of the student’s high
37 school graduating class. The award amount shall decrease to
38 \$2,500 for a student with an SAT score between 1,350 and 1,390
39 and a class rank between the 85th and 89th percentiles. The award
40 amount shall not, when combined with any other financial
41 assistance, exceed the student’s actual cost of attendance at the
42 institution of higher education. In the event that a student receives
43 an award under another State-supported merit scholarship program,
44 the scholarship awarded pursuant to this act shall be reduced by the
45 amount of the other merit scholarship. The institution shall select
46 the individual scholarship recipients.

47 c. To be eligible to receive a scholarship under the program a
48 student shall:

1 (1) be a State resident pursuant to guidelines established by the
2 authority;

3 (2) have applied for all other available forms of State and
4 federal financial aid, exclusive of loans; and

5 (3) except as otherwise provided pursuant to subsection f. of this
6 section, be enrolled in a full-time course of study in an institution of
7 higher education, not including any credit hours in a remedial or
8 developmental curriculum.

9 d. To be eligible to receive a renewal scholarship under the
10 program a student shall maintain a 3.0 grade point average and
11 continuous enrollment in a full-time course of study at the
12 institution.

13 e. Eligibility for the program shall be limited to a total of four
14 years or eight semesters, unless the student is enrolled in an
15 approved five year program. A student may be granted leave from
16 the program without impacting continued eligibility if:

17 (1) the student is on medical leave due to the illness of the
18 student or a member of the student's immediate family, including a
19 physical or mental health condition, or emergency leave because of
20 a family emergency, which medical or emergency leave shall have
21 been approved by the institution; or

22 (2) the student is called to partial or full mobilization for State
23 or federal active duty as a member of the National Guard or a
24 Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States.

25 f. A student shall be eligible to receive a scholarship under the
26 program and take less than 12 credits in a semester if: the student
27 provides to the institution a written note from a physician or other
28 licensed health care professional indicating the student's need to
29 take a reduced number of credits due to a physical or mental health
30 condition; or the student provides to the institution, in such form as
31 determined by the authority, verification of the recent death of the
32 student's parent or spouse. To receive a scholarship under the
33 program for the semester, a student who receives a medical
34 exemption or an exemption due to the recent death of the student's
35 parent or spouse from the full-time course of study requirement
36 pursuant to this subsection shall enroll for a minimum of six credits
37 in the semester. A part-time award of a scholarship under the
38 program shall be prorated against the full-time award of the
39 scholarship as follows: an eligible student enrolled with six to eight
40 credits shall receive one-half of the value of a full-time award, and
41 an eligible student enrolled with nine to 11 credits shall receive
42 three-quarters of a full-time award. A student shall receive an
43 additional semester of scholarship eligibility for each semester the
44 student receives an exemption from the full-time course of study
45 requirement pursuant to this subsection, not to exceed four
46 additional semesters.

1 Under the bill, a recipient of the scholarship is required to
2 maintain a 3.0 grade point average, and continuous enrollment in a
3 full-time course of study at an institution of higher education in
4 order to receive a renewal scholarship, except in the case of a
5 physical or mental health condition, family emergency, or
6 deployment to active duty. Eligibility for the program will be
7 limited to a total of four years or eight semesters, unless the student
8 is enrolled in an approved five year program or provides evidence
9 that a student's physical or mental health evaluation or the recent
10 death of a student's parent or spouse requires the student to enroll
11 in less than 12 credits.