

SENATE, No. 1158

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 3, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Senator NELLIE POU

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Testa and Singleton

SYNOPSIS

Provides tuition fee waiver apprenticeship courses.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 4/19/2021)

1 **AN ACT** concerning apprenticeship tuition fees and supplementing
2 chapter 62 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. As used in this act:

8 “Eligible person” means an individual whose gross aggregate
9 household income at the time of admission to a New Jersey public
10 institution of higher education or county vocational school
11 providing post-secondary vocational education is below the State
12 household median income.

13 “Gross aggregate household income” means the total annual
14 income of all members of a household, from whatever source
15 derived, including, but not limited to, pension, annuity, retirement
16 and Social Security benefits received during the taxable year.

17 “Registered apprenticeship” means an apprenticeship in a
18 program providing to each trainee combined classroom and on-the-
19 job training under the direct and close supervision of a highly
20 skilled worker in an occupation recognized as an apprenticeable
21 trade, and registered by the Office of Apprenticeship of the United
22 States Department of Labor and meeting the standards established
23 by that office.

24 “State household median income” means the point that divides
25 the gross aggregate household income distribution into halves, one-
26 half with income above the median and the other with income
27 below the median as determined by the United States Census
28 Bureau American Community Survey. The median is based on the
29 income distribution of all households, including those with no
30 income in the State.

31 “Tuition” means the charges imposed by a New Jersey public
32 institution of higher education or county vocational school
33 providing post-secondary vocational education for enrollment at the
34 institution or school.

35
36 2. a. An eligible person shall be permitted to attend, tuition-free,
37 courses available at any public institution of higher education or
38 county vocational school which are qualified to serve as the classroom
39 training or education component of a registered apprenticeship
40 program in which the person is participating as a registered apprentice
41 if:

42 (1) tuition costs are not covered by an employer through
43 employment benefits;

44 (2) the person completes a Free Application for Federal Student
45 Aid each year within the established deadlines and has exhausted all
46 financial aid assistance; and

47 (3) the person retains employment as an active registered
48 apprentice under the registered apprenticeship program and maintains

1 satisfactory academic progress to qualify for renewal of the tuition
2 waiver.

3 b. The State shall reimburse a public institution of higher
4 education or county vocational school for the tuition cost of each
5 eligible person who enrolls in the institution pursuant to the provisions
6 of this section.

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8 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
9 the first full academic year following the date of enactment.

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STATEMENT

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14 This bill requires public institutions of higher education to waive
15 the tuition fees of certain courses which are qualified to serve as the
16 classroom training or education component of a registered
17 apprenticeship for eligible persons whose gross aggregate
18 household income is below the State's median annual income.

19 Under the bill, an eligible person is an individual whose gross
20 aggregate household income at the time of admission to a New
21 Jersey public institution of higher education or county vocational
22 school is below the State household median income as determined
23 by the United States Census Bureau American Community Survey.
24 The person is to be deemed eligible for a tuition fee waiver if:

25 1. tuition costs are not covered by the employer through
26 employment benefits;

27 2. the person completes a Free Application for Federal Student
28 Aid each year and has exhausted all financial aid assistance; and

29 3. the person retains employment as an active registered
30 apprentice under the registered apprenticeship program and
31 maintains satisfactory academic progress to qualify for renewal of
32 the tuition waiver.