

SENATE, No. 1892

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 24, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator NILSA CRUZ-PEREZ

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Senator JAMES BEACH

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes the “Domestic Violence Tuition Waiver Program.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/5/2020)

1 **AN ACT** concerning tuition waiver for certain victims of domestic
2 violence and supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

4

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

7

8 1. As used in this act:

9 “Documented victim of domestic violence” means a victim of
10 domestic violence as defined in section 3 of the "Prevention of
11 Domestic Violence Act of 1991," P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-19)
12 who (1) has obtained a permanent restraining order against a
13 defendant pursuant to section 13 of the "Prevention of Domestic
14 Violence Act of 1991," P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-29); or (2) has
15 obtained a statement from the office of the county prosecutor of the
16 county where the domestic violence is alleged to have occurred that
17 the victim is cooperating with law enforcement in any investigation
18 or prosecution involving a domestic violence offense in which the
19 person is the alleged victim whether or not a temporary or
20 permanent restraining order or a criminal conviction has been
21 obtained.

22 “Public institution of higher education” means any public
23 university, college, technical college or community college located
24 in New Jersey.

25 “Tuition” means the charges for one semester imposed by a New
26 Jersey public institution of higher education or county vocational
27 school providing post-secondary vocational education for
28 enrollment at the institution or school.

29

30 2. a. The Higher Education Student Assistance Authority shall
31 establish the “Domestic Violence Tuition Waiver Program.” The
32 purpose of the program is to provide State-paid tuition or a tuition
33 waiver for one semester to persons who are victims of domestic
34 violence and who, as a result of that victimization, were unable to
35 complete a course of study at an institution of higher education or
36 county vocational school post-secondary program in this State.

37 b. The State shall reimburse an institution of higher education
38 or county vocational school for the tuition cost of each person who
39 enrolls in the institution or school pursuant to the provisions of this
40 act.

41

42 3. a. A person who meets the following requirements at the
43 time of the initial application to the Higher Education Student
44 Assistance Authority shall be eligible for the program:

45 (1) the person qualifies for admission to a New Jersey public
46 institution of higher education or county vocational school post-
47 secondary program;

48 (2) the person is a documented victim of domestic violence;

1 (3) the person was enrolled in a course of study in a New Jersey
2 public institution of higher education or county vocational school
3 post-secondary program at the time of occurrence of the act of
4 domestic violence, was unable to complete the course of study
5 because of that act, and submits an affidavit to that effect;

6 (4) no more than two years have passed since the act of
7 domestic violence; and

8 (5) the person is seeking to reenroll in the same or substantially
9 similar course of study.

10 b. A person who meets the eligibility requirements listed in this
11 section may apply to the Higher Education Student Assistance
12 Authority for a tuition waiver in a form and manner prescribed by
13 the authority.

14 c. Upon receipt of an application, the Higher Education
15 Student Assistance Authority shall review the application and, if
16 the applicant meets the program eligibility requirements, approve
17 the application and notify the appropriate New Jersey public
18 institution of higher education or county vocational school that the
19 person qualifies for a waiver of one semester's tuition for the course
20 work left incomplete as a result of the incidence of domestic
21 violence.

22 d. Eligibility for the program shall be limited to two years from
23 the date the applicant is notified of acceptance by the Higher
24 Education Student Assistance Authority for a tuition waiver
25 pursuant to subsection b. of this section.

26 e. No applicant shall be granted more than one tuition waiver.
27

28 4. Rules, regulations.

29 Subject to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
30 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), the Higher Education Student Assistance
31 Authority shall adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the
32 purposes of this act.
33

34 5. This act shall take effect immediately. 35 36

37 STATEMENT 38

39 This bill establishes the "Domestic Violence Tuition Waiver
40 Program," and directs the New Jersey Higher Education Student
41 Assistance Authority to implement and administer the program.

42 The bill provides that the purpose of the program is to provide
43 State-paid tuition or a tuition waiver, for one semester, to persons
44 who are victims of domestic violence and who, as a result of the
45 domestic violence, were unable to complete a course of study at an
46 institution of higher education or county vocational school post-
47 secondary program in this State. Under the bill, the State will
48 reimburse an institution of higher education or county vocational

1 school for the tuition cost of each person who enrolls in the
2 institution or school pursuant to the provisions of the bill.

3 The bill provides that a person who meets the following
4 requirements at the time of the initial application to the authority
5 will be eligible for the tuition waiver program:

6 -- the person qualifies for admission to a New Jersey public
7 institution of higher education or county vocational school post-
8 secondary program;

9 -- the person is a documented victim of domestic violence;

10 -- the person was enrolled in a course of study in a New Jersey
11 public institution of higher education or county vocational school
12 post-secondary program at the time of occurrence of the act of
13 domestic violence, was unable to complete the course of study
14 because of that act, and submits an affidavit to that effect;

15 -- no more than two years have passed since the act of domestic
16 violence; and

17 -- the person is seeking to reenroll in the same or substantially
18 similar course of study.

19 The bill provides that a person who meets the eligibility
20 requirements may apply to the authority for a tuition waiver in a
21 form and manner prescribed by the authority. The bill provides that
22 the authority, upon receipt of an application, will review the
23 application and, if the applicant meets the eligibility requirements,
24 approve the application and notify the appropriate New Jersey
25 public institution of higher education or county vocational school
26 that the person qualifies for a waiver of one semester's tuition for
27 the course work left incomplete as a result of the incidence of
28 domestic violence.

29 The bill provides that eligibility for the program will be limited
30 to two years from the date the applicant is notified of acceptance by
31 the authority for a tuition waiver. The bill provides that no
32 applicant will be granted more than one tuition waiver.

33 The bill permits the authority to adopt rules and regulations, in
34 accordance with the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968,
35 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate the purposes of the bill.

36 The bill takes effect immediately upon enactment.