

SENATE, No. 2221

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 16, 2020

Sponsored by:
Senator VIN GOPAL
District 11 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Work Ready New Jersey Scholarship Program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** establishing the Work Ready New Jersey Scholarship
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:*

7
8 1. There is hereby created the Work Ready New Jersey
9 Scholarship Program for postsecondary students enrolled in
10 approved technical and nursing programs at county colleges and
11 proprietary schools. The purpose of the program shall be to
12 increase the availability of properly-trained employees in high-
13 demand technical and nursing fields. It shall be the duty of the
14 Higher Education Student Assistance Authority to administer the
15 program.

16
17 2. a. A scholarship award under the program shall cover the
18 full cost of tuition, subject to the prior application of other grants
19 and scholarships against those costs, for an eligible student. The
20 full amount of any other grants or scholarships awarded to the
21 student shall be applied to tuition to reduce the amount of any
22 scholarship that the student receives under the provisions of this act.
23 The amount awarded for fees shall not exceed \$400 per year.

24 b. A student shall be eligible for a scholarship under the
25 program for a maximum of four academic semesters, 60 credit
26 hours of enrollment, or upon receipt of an associate's degree,
27 whichever occurs first. A student's scholarship shall remain in
28 effect only during such period as the student achieves satisfactory
29 academic progress as defined by the institution, continues to meet
30 the eligibility criteria and guidelines established pursuant to
31 subsection c. of this section, and is regularly enrolled as a student in
32 an eligible institution.

33 c. To be eligible to receive a scholarship under the program a
34 student shall:

35 (1) be a United States citizen;

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

38 (3) be a high school graduate, or have passed the General
39 Educational Development Test (GED);

40 (4) not have previously earned an associate's degree or a higher
41 academic degree;

42 (5) be enrolled at an eligible institution in an approved program
43 of study;

44 (6) have applied for all other available forms of State and federal
45 need-based grants and merit scholarships, exclusive of loans, the
46 full amount of which grants and scholarships shall be applied to
47 tuition to reduce the amount of any scholarship that the student
48 shall receive under the provisions of this act; and

1 (7) not be in default on any federal student loan program or on
2 any loan administered by the New Jersey College Loans to Assist
3 State Students (NJCLASS) Loan Program.

4
5 3. For purposes of this act:

6 “Approved program of study” means a nursing program or
7 technical program approved by the Executive Director of the Higher
8 Education Student Assistance Authority for inclusion in the Work
9 Ready New Jersey Scholarship Program established pursuant to
10 section 1 of this act. An approved program of study shall lead to an
11 Associate’s Degree in Nursing, an industry-recognized certificate or
12 diploma, or an Associate of Applied Science degree in one of the
13 following fields: health care, advanced manufacturing,
14 transportation and logistics, business services and information
15 technology, construction, or other field designated by the executive
16 director.

17 “Eligible institution” means a county college or proprietary
18 school.

19
20 4. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
21 the first full academic year following the date of enactment.

22
23
24 STATEMENT

25
26 This bill establishes the Work Ready New Jersey Scholarship
27 Program for postsecondary students enrolled in approved nursing
28 and technical programs at county colleges and proprietary schools.
29 The purpose of the program will be to increase the availability of
30 properly-trained employees in nursing and high-demand technical
31 fields. The Higher Education Student Assistance Authority
32 (HESAA) will be charged with administering the program. Under
33 the bill, students enrolled in county colleges and proprietary schools
34 will be eligible for scholarships towards study that leads to an
35 Associate’s Degree in Nursing, an industry-recognized certificate or
36 diploma, or an Associate of Applied Science degree in one of the
37 following technical fields: health care, advanced manufacturing,
38 transportation and logistics, business services and information
39 technology, construction, or other field designated by the executive
40 director of the authority.

41 The bill provides that a scholarship award under the program will
42 cover the full cost of tuition, subject to the prior application of other
43 grants and scholarships against those costs, for an eligible student.
44 The full amount of any other grants or scholarships awarded to the
45 student must be applied to tuition to reduce the amount of any
46 scholarship that the student receives under the provisions of this
47 bill. The amount awarded for fees cannot exceed \$400 per year.

1 The bill provides that a student will be eligible for a scholarship
2 under the program for a maximum of four academic semesters, 60
3 credit hours, or upon receipt of an associate's degree, whichever
4 occurs first. To be eligible to receive a scholarship under the
5 program a student must:

- 6 (1) be a United States citizen;
- 7 (2) be a State resident;
- 8 (3) be a high school graduate, or have passed the General
9 Educational Development Test (GED);
- 10 (4) not have previously earned an associate's degree or a higher
11 academic degree;
- 12 (5) be enrolled at an eligible institution in an approved program
13 of study;
- 14 (6) have applied for all other available forms of State and
15 federal need-based grants and merit scholarships, exclusive of
16 loans; and
- 17 (7) not be in default on any federal student loan program or on
18 any loan administered by the New Jersey College Loans to Assist
19 State Students (NJCLASS) Loan Program.