

SENATE, No. 3058

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 22, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator CHRISTOPHER J. CONNORS

District 9 (Atlantic, Burlington and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Provides that former law enforcement officers who retired due to disability are eligible to receive tuition assistance to attend public institution of higher education or proprietary institution licensed to confer academic degrees.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning tuition assistance for certain retired law
2 enforcement officers and supplementing chapter 71B of Title
3 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

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8 1. a. As used in this act:

9 “Public institution of higher education” means Rutgers, The
10 State University, the New Jersey Institute of Technology, Rowan
11 University, Montclair State University, the State colleges or
12 universities established pursuant to chapter 64 of Title 18A of the
13 New Jersey Statutes, the county colleges and any other public
14 university or college now or hereafter established or authorized by
15 State law.

16 “Retired law enforcement officer” means a New Jersey resident
17 who was employed as a permanent full-time member of any federal,
18 State, county or municipal law enforcement agency, department, or
19 division of those governments who was statutorily empowered to
20 act for the detection, investigation, arrest, conviction, detention, or
21 rehabilitation of persons violating criminal laws of this State or of
22 the United States and was statutorily required to successfully
23 complete a training course approved by the Police Training
24 Commission pursuant to P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-66 et seq.), or
25 certified by the commission as substantially equivalent to an
26 approved course.

27 b. A retired law enforcement officer who retired in good
28 standing shall be permitted to attend regularly-scheduled courses at
29 a public institution of higher education or a proprietary institution
30 licensed to confer academic degrees for certain programs by the
31 Secretary of Higher Education and receive up to 16 credits per
32 semester tuition-free provided that:

33 (1) the officer retired because of a disability pursuant to section
34 6 of P.L.1944, c.255 (C.43:16A-6), section 7 of P.L.1944, c.255
35 (C.43:16A-7), section 1 of P.L.1989, c.103 (C.43:16A-6.1), or any
36 substantially similar statute governing the disability retirement of
37 federal law enforcement officers, provided that the officer was a
38 regularly employed, full-time law enforcement officer for an
39 aggregate of four or more years prior to his disability retirement;

40 (2) the retired officer has been accepted to pursue a course of
41 undergraduate study and is enrolled as an undergraduate student in
42 good standing at that institution or a course of graduate study and is
43 enrolled as a graduate student in good standing at that institution, or
44 has been accepted to pursue a course of study in an academic
45 degree-granting program at a proprietary institution which has been
46 licensed to confer academic degrees by the secretary and is enrolled
47 in good standing at that institution; and

1 (3) the retired officer has applied for all available State student
2 grants and scholarships and all available federal student grants and
3 scholarships for which the retired officer is eligible.

4 c. The State shall reimburse a public institution of higher
5 education or a proprietary institution for the tuition of each eligible
6 retired law enforcement officer who enrolls in the institution
7 pursuant to the provisions of this section to the extent that the
8 tuition cost is not paid through the State student grants and
9 scholarships and the federal student grants and scholarships for
10 which the retired law enforcement officer is eligible.

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12 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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15 STATEMENT

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17 This bill provides that retired law enforcement officers who
18 retired in good standing due to a disability are eligible to receive
19 tuition assistance to attend a public institution of higher education
20 or a proprietary institution which has been licensed to confer
21 academic degrees for certain programs by the Secretary of Higher
22 Education. In addition to academic degrees, proprietary institutions
23 also offer certificates and other credentials in various professional
24 trades and occupations. Under the bill, eligible retired law
25 enforcement officers are permitted to attend regularly-scheduled
26 courses at public institutions of higher education or proprietary
27 institutions and receive up to 16 credits per semester tuition-free
28 provided that:

- 29 • the officer retired because of a disability pursuant to section
30 6 of P.L.1944, c.255 (C.43:16A-6), section 7 of P.L.1944,
31 c.255 (C.43:16A-7), section 1 of P.L.1989, c.103 (C.43:16A-
32 6.1), or any substantially similar statute governing the
33 disability retirement of federal law enforcement officers;
34 • the retired officer is enrolled as an undergraduate or
35 graduate student at the institution in good standing, or in a
36 degree-granting program at a qualified proprietary institution
37 in good standing; and
38 • the retired officer has applied for all available federal and
39 State student grants and scholarships for which the officer is
40 eligible.

41 Under the bill, the State will reimburse a public institution of
42 higher education or proprietary institution for the tuition of each
43 eligible retired law enforcement officer who enrolls in the
44 institution to the extent that the tuition cost is not paid through
45 federal and State student grants and scholarships.

46 Under P.L.1999, c.46, members of the New Jersey National
47 Guard who have been accepted to pursue a course of study at a
48 public institution of higher education and who are in good standing

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1 and apply for all available tuition benefits for which they are
2 eligible are permitted to attend regularly-scheduled courses at the
3 institution and receive up to 16 credits per semester tuition-free.
4 This bill models that law and provides the same tuition benefits to
5 former law enforcement officers who retired due to disability.