

SENATE, No. 3231

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 7, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM

District 31 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Requires Higher Education Student Assistance Authority to permit certain students to submit monthly expense and resource statement for income verification; requires Higher Education Student Assistance Authority to impute in-kind support amounts.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** concerning income verification under State student grant
2 and scholarship programs and supplementing chapter 71B of
3 Title 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. In the event that a student applying for a State student grant
9 or scholarship is requested by the Higher Education Student
10 Assistance Authority to verify income and assets and the income
11 and assets of that student, or the student's parents or guardians in
12 the case of a dependent student, cannot be verified by documentable
13 proof received from a federal or State agency or through income tax
14 return transcripts or actual income tax returns, the authority shall
15 permit the student to submit a monthly expense and resource
16 statement to verify income and assets. If a student submitting a
17 monthly expense and resource statement pursuant to this section
18 records zero income and assets, the authority shall impute in-kind
19 support, which shall assume a minimal standard of living, on the
20 resource portion of the student's monthly expense and resource
21 statement.

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23 2. The Higher Education Student Assistance Authority shall
24 promulgate regulations pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure
25 Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), necessary to effectuate
26 the provisions of this act.

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

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STATEMENT

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34 Under current policy, students applying for State grant or
35 scholarship under the purview of the Higher Education Student
36 Assistance Authority (HESAA), who are requested by HESAA to
37 submit documentation to verify income and assets, are only
38 permitted to submit documentable proof produced by a State or
39 federal government agency, for the purposes of the verification.
40 Documentable proof produced by a State or federal agency may
41 include, but is not limited to, income tax return transcripts, actual
42 copies of income tax returns, Internal Revenue Service Wage and
43 Income transcripts, and proof of receipt of State or federal public
44 benefits such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families,
45 Supplemental Security Income, Social Security benefits,
46 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, or
47 unemployment benefits. When the income and assets of a student
48 or a student's parents or guardians cannot be verified through such

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1 documentable proof, the student is not considered for State grants
2 or scholarships.

3 This bill would require HESAA to permit the submission of
4 monthly expense and resource statements for those applicant
5 students who cannot verify income and assets through
6 documentable proof produced by a State or federal agency. The bill
7 also requires HESAA to impute in-kind support amounts, which are
8 to assume a minimal standard of living, on a student's monthly
9 expense and resource statement, if the student records zero income
10 and assets. In-kind support includes amounts paid for certain
11 expenses on behalf of a student, or the student and the student's
12 parents or guardians in the case of a dependent student, that are not
13 considered loans.