

SENATE, No. 3471

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 19, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

SYNOPSIS

Requires students to complete financial aid application as part of high school graduation requirements.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/1/2021)

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1 AN ACT concerning graduation requirements for high school
2 students and supplementing chapter 7C of Title 18A of the New
3 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. Beginning with the 2022-2023 grade 11 class, the State
9 Board of Education shall require that the local graduation
10 requirements adopted by a board of education or a board of trustees
11 of a charter school include the requirement that a student complete
12 and submit a financial aid application in a form prescribed by the
13 Higher Education Student Assistance Authority.

14 b. A student shall be exempt from the graduation requirement
15 if the student submits to the school district:

16 (1) a form signed by the parent or guardian, or by the student if
17 he is at least 18 years of age, requesting the exemption; or

18 (2) a form signed by the school counselor authorizing the
19 exemption for good cause as defined by the State board.

20 c. The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
21 Executive Director of the Higher Education Student Assistance
22 Authority, shall provide a list of resources for school districts,
23 parents, and students that include instructions on how to complete a
24 financial aid application prescribed by the authority. The executive
25 director of the authority shall make available such resources as are
26 necessary directly to school counselors or other school employees
27 who assist students in completing the financial aid application.

28 d. Each school district shall annually notify students and the
29 parents or guardians of the requirement established pursuant to this
30 section.

31 e. The Department of Education shall verify which students
32 have met the requirement established pursuant to this section with
33 the authority. The department shall include that information in the
34 student's record.

35 f. The Department of Education shall include the number of
36 students who have met the requirement established pursuant to this
37 section in the School Report Card issued pursuant to P.L.1995,
38 c.235 (C.18A:7E-1 et seq.).

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40 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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45 This bill provides that, beginning with the 2022-2023 grade 11
46 class, the State Board of Education will require that the local
47 graduation requirements adopted by a board of education or a board
48 of trustees of a charter school include the requirement that a student

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1 complete and submit a financial aid application in a form prescribed
2 by the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority. A student
3 will be exempt from the graduation requirement if the student
4 submits to the school district:

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6 he is at least 18 years of age, requesting the exemption; or

7 (2) a form signed by the school counselor authorizing the
8 exemption for good cause as defined by the State board.

9 The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
10 Executive Director of the Higher Education Student Assistance
11 Authority, will provide a list of resources for school districts,
12 parents, and students that include instructions on how to complete a
13 financial aid application prescribed by the authority. The executive
14 director of the authority will make available such resources as are
15 necessary directly to school counselors or other school employees
16 who assist students in completing the financial aid application.

17 Each school district will annually notify students and the parents
18 or guardians of the requirement established by the bill. The
19 Department of Education will verify which students have met the
20 requirement established by the bill with the authority and will
21 include that information in the student's record. The department
22 will also include information on the number of students who have
23 met the requirement in the School Report Card issued under current
24 law.