

SENATE, No. 4022

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 8, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Permits legislative agents and organizations to receive funds assessed on tuition bills as waivable fees.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning tuition fees at public institutions of higher
2 education and amending P.L.1995, c.63.

3
4 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. Section 1 of P.L.1995, c.63 (C.18A:62-22) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 1. The governing body of any public institution of higher
10 education shall **not** allow funds for legislative agents or
11 organizations as defined in chapter 13C of Title 52 of the New
12 Jersey Statutes which attempt to influence legislation to be assessed
13 on student tuition bills **],** except that optional fees for non-partisan
14 organizations which employ legislative agents or attempt to
15 influence legislation shall be collected by the governing body
16 whenever students at the institution have authorized an optional fee
17 for such organizations by a majority vote of those students voting in
18 an official student referendum **]** as waivable fees. For the purposes
19 of this section "**[optional]** waivable fee" shall mean any amount
20 payable on a student tuition bill, appearing as a separately assessed
21 item, but not a mandatory charge **[or a waivable fee]**. **[Optional]**
22 Waivable fees shall be accompanied by a statement as to the nature
23 of the item, **[and]** that the item is not a charge required to be paid
24 by the student **[but rather the student may add the charge to the**
25 **total amount due, and that the item appears on the bill at the request**
26 **of the student body]**, the process for waiving the fee, and that the
27 presence of the fee does not necessarily reflect the endorsement of
28 the governing body.

29 (cf: P.L.1995, c.63, s.1)

30
31 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

32 33 34 STATEMENT

35
36 This bill would permit the governing body of a public institution
37 of higher education to allow funds generated from student tuition
38 bills to be distributed to legislative agents or organizations which
39 attempt to influence legislation as waivable fees.

40 Under current law, the governing body of a public institution of
41 higher education is prohibited from allowing funds for legislative
42 agents or organizations which attempt to influence legislation to be
43 assessed on student tuition bills. However, optional fees may be
44 assessed for nonpartisan organizations that employ legislative
45 agents or attempt to influence legislation provided that such a fee

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 has been authorized by a majority vote in a student referendum. An
2 optional fee is an amount payable on a student tuition bill,
3 appearing as a separately assessed item, but not a mandatory charge
4 or a waivable fee. Optional fees that appear on student tuition bills
5 are currently required to be accompanied by a statement as to the
6 nature of the item along with an explanation that the item is not a
7 charge required to be paid by the student, the student may add the
8 charge to the total amount due, and that the item has appeared on
9 the bill at the request of the student body and does not necessarily
10 reflect the endorsement of the governing body of the public
11 institution of higher education.

12 This bill would amend current law to eliminate the optional fee
13 authorizations process and allow funds for legislative agents and
14 organizations that attempt to influence legislation to be assessed on
15 tuition bills as waivable fees. These fees would appear on student
16 tuition bills without prior student referendum but students would
17 have the option to have the fee waived. For purposes of this bill, a
18 waivable fee means any amount payable on a student tuition bill,
19 appearing as a separately assessed item, but not a mandatory
20 charge. The bill requires a waivable fee to be accompanied by a
21 statement as to the nature of the item, that the item is not a charge
22 required to be paid by the student, the process for waiving the fee,
23 and that the presence of the fee does not necessarily reflect the
24 endorsement of the governing body of the public institution of
25 higher education.