

**ASSEMBLY, No. 421**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**218th LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2018 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman GABRIELA M. MOSQUERA**

**District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)**

**Assemblywoman PATRICIA EGAN JONES**

**District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)**

**Assemblyman JAMEL C. HOLLEY**

**District 20 (Union)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman McKeon**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes the “Domestic Violence Tuition Waiver Program.”

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT concerning tuition waiver for certain victims of domestic  
2 violence and supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey  
3 Statutes.

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

7  
8 1. As used in this act:

9 “Documented victim of domestic violence” means a victim of  
10 domestic violence as defined in section 3 of the "Prevention of  
11 Domestic Violence Act of 1991," P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-19)  
12 who (1) has obtained a permanent restraining order against a  
13 defendant pursuant to section 13 of the "Prevention of Domestic  
14 Violence Act of 1991," P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-29); or (2) has  
15 obtained a statement from the office of the county prosecutor of the  
16 county where the domestic violence is alleged to have occurred that  
17 the victim is cooperating with law enforcement in any investigation  
18 or prosecution involving a domestic violence offense in which the  
19 person is the alleged victim whether or not a temporary or  
20 permanent restraining order or a criminal conviction has been  
21 obtained.

22 “Public institution of higher education” means any public  
23 university, college, technical college or community college located  
24 in New Jersey.

25 “Tuition” means the charges for one semester imposed by a New  
26 Jersey public institution of higher education or county vocational  
27 school providing post-secondary vocational education for  
28 enrollment at the institution or school.

29  
30 2. a. The Higher Education Student Assistance Authority shall  
31 establish the “Domestic Violence Tuition Waiver Program.” The  
32 purpose of the program is to provide State-paid tuition or a tuition  
33 waiver for one semester to persons who are victims of domestic  
34 violence and who, as a result of that victimization, were unable to  
35 complete a course of study at an institution of higher education or  
36 county vocational school post-secondary program in this State.

37 b. The State shall reimburse an institution of higher education or  
38 county vocational school for the tuition cost of each person who  
39 enrolls in the institution or school pursuant to the provisions of this  
40 act.

41  
42 3. a. A person who meets the following requirements at the  
43 time of the initial application to the Higher Education Student  
44 Assistance Authority shall be eligible for the program:

45 (1) the person qualifies for admission to a New Jersey public  
46 institution of higher education or county vocational school post-  
47 secondary program;

48 (2) the person is a documented victim of domestic violence;

1 (3) the person was enrolled in a course of study in a New Jersey  
2 public institution of higher education or county vocational school  
3 post-secondary program at the time of occurrence of the act of  
4 domestic violence, was unable to complete the course of study  
5 because of that act, and submits an affidavit to that effect;

6 (4) no more than two years have passed since the act of  
7 domestic violence; and

8 (5) the person is seeking to reenroll in the same or substantially  
9 similar course of study.

10 b. A person who meets the eligibility requirements listed in this  
11 section may apply to the Higher Education Student Assistance  
12 Authority for a tuition waiver in a form and manner prescribed by  
13 the authority.

14 c. Upon receipt of an application, the Higher Education  
15 Student Assistance Authority shall review the application and, if  
16 the applicant meets the program eligibility requirements, approve  
17 the application and notify the appropriate New Jersey public  
18 institution of higher education or county vocational school that the  
19 person qualifies for a waiver of one semester's tuition for the course  
20 work left incomplete as a result of the incidence of domestic  
21 violence.

22 d. Eligibility for the program shall be limited to two years from  
23 the date the applicant is notified of acceptance by the Higher  
24 Education Student Assistance Authority for a tuition waiver  
25 pursuant to subsection b. of this section.

26 e. No applicant shall be granted more than one tuition waiver.  
27

28 4. Rules, regulations.

29 Subject to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410  
30 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), the Higher Education Student Assistance  
31 Authority shall adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the  
32 purposes of this act.  
33

34 5. This act shall take effect immediately.  
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37 STATEMENT  
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39 This bill establishes the "Domestic Violence Tuition Waiver  
40 Program," and directs the New Jersey Higher Education Student  
41 Assistance Authority to implement and administer the program.

42 The bill provides that the purpose of the program is to provide  
43 State-paid tuition or a tuition waiver, for one semester, to persons  
44 who are victims of domestic violence and who, as a result of the  
45 domestic violence, were unable to complete a course of study at an  
46 institution of higher education or county vocational school post-  
47 secondary program in this State. Under the bill, the State will  
48 reimburse an institution of higher education or county vocational

1 school for the tuition cost of each person who enrolls in the  
2 institution or school pursuant to the provisions of the bill.

3 The bill provides that a person who meets the following  
4 requirements at the time of the initial application to the authority  
5 will be eligible for the tuition waiver program:

6 -- the person qualifies for admission to a New Jersey public  
7 institution of higher education or county vocational school post-  
8 secondary program;

9 -- the person is a documented victim of domestic violence;

10 -- the person was enrolled in a course of study in a New Jersey  
11 public institution of higher education or county vocational school  
12 post-secondary program at the time of occurrence of the act of  
13 domestic violence, was unable to complete the course of study  
14 because of that act, and submits an affidavit to that effect;

15 -- no more than two years have passed since the act of domestic  
16 violence; and

17 -- the person is seeking to reenroll in the same or substantially  
18 similar course of study.

19 The bill provides that a person who meets the eligibility  
20 requirements may apply to the authority for a tuition waiver in a  
21 form and manner prescribed by the authority. The bill provides that  
22 the authority, upon receipt of an application, will review the  
23 application and, if the applicant meets the eligibility requirements,  
24 approve the application and notify the appropriate New Jersey  
25 public institution of higher education or county vocational school  
26 that the person qualifies for a waiver of one semester's tuition for  
27 the course work left incomplete as a result of the incidence of  
28 domestic violence.

29 The bill provides that eligibility for the program will be limited  
30 to two years from the date the applicant is notified of acceptance by  
31 the authority for a tuition waiver. The bill provides that no  
32 applicant will be granted more than one tuition waiver.

33 The bill permits the authority to adopt rules and regulations, in  
34 accordance with the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968,  
35 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate the purposes of the bill.

36 The bill takes effect immediately upon enactment.