

ASSEMBLY, No. 2505

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 13, 2008

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ALISON LITTELL MCHOSE

District 24 (Sussex, Hunterdon and Morris)

Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT

District 6 (Camden)

SYNOPSIS

Provides that NJ STARS students can enroll in county college outside county of residence under certain circumstances.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/14/2008)

1 AN ACT concerning the New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance
2 Rewards Program and amending P.L.2004, c.59.

3

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

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7 1. Section 5 of P.L.2004, c.59 (C.18A:71B-85) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 5. a. A scholarship under the NJ STARS Program shall cover the
10 full cost of tuition and fees, subject to the prior application of other
11 grants and scholarships against those costs as provided under
12 paragraph (2) of subsection c. of this section, for up to 15 credit
13 hours in any semester, for an eligible student enrolled in a full-time
14 course of study at the New Jersey county college serving the
15 student's county of residence. An otherwise eligible student who
16 demonstrates to the authority, in accordance with such criteria and
17 by means of such documentation as the authority shall establish by
18 regulation, that the county college serving the student's county of
19 residence does not offer the curriculum that the student chooses to
20 study shall be eligible for such scholarship at another New Jersey
21 county college offering that curriculum. An otherwise eligible
22 student who demonstrates to the authority, in accordance with such
23 criteria and by means of such documentation as the authority shall
24 establish by regulation, that a county college outside of the
25 student's county of residence is located in closer proximity to the
26 student's place of residence shall be eligible for such scholarship at
27 that county college. The amount of any scholarship allowed
28 hereunder to a student at a county college serving a county other
29 than the student's county of residence shall be computed as though
30 the student were a resident of the county served by that college, and
31 the college shall likewise compute the amount of any additional
32 payment, required with respect to the enrollment of that student for
33 credit hours of study during a semester in which the scholarship is
34 awarded that are not covered by that scholarship, as though the
35 student were a resident of the county.

36 b. A student shall be eligible for a scholarship under the NJ
37 STARS Program for up to five semesters. The scholarship shall be
38 payable for the first year of enrollment in a county college to a
39 student who graduated in the top 20% of the student's high school
40 graduating class, provided that in the case of students graduating
41 from high schools that do not calculate the class rank of their
42 students, the student's ranking shall be determined by the high
43 school in consultation with the authority. During a student's
44 enrollment in a county college after the first year of enrollment, the
45 scholarship shall be payable to that student if the student attains a

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 grade point average of at least 3.0 by the start of the student's
2 second year of county college enrollment. A student who attains a
3 grade point average of less than 3.0 at the start of the second
4 semester of the student's first year of county college enrollment
5 shall participate in an enrichment program designed by the county
6 college during the second semester of the student's first year of
7 enrollment.

8 c. To be eligible to receive a scholarship under the NJ STARS
9 Program a student shall:

10 (1) be a State resident pursuant to guidelines established by the
11 authority;

12 (2) have applied for all other available forms of State and
13 federal need-based grants and merit scholarships, exclusive of
14 loans, the full amount of which grants and scholarships shall be
15 applied to tuition and fee charges to reduce the amount of any
16 scholarship that the student shall receive under the provisions of
17 this act;

18 (3) be enrolled in a full-time course of study at a New Jersey
19 county college;

20 (4) have graduated from high school in 2004 or later, and not
21 earlier than the calendar year two years prior to the first calendar
22 year in which a scholarship payment is to be made; and

23 (5) maintain continuous enrollment in a full-time course of
24 study, unless on medical leave due to the illness of the student or a
25 member of the student's immediate family or emergency leave
26 because of a family emergency, which medical or emergency leave
27 shall have been approved by the county college, or unless called to
28 partial or full mobilization for State or federal active duty as a
29 member of the National Guard or a Reserve component of the
30 Armed Forces of the United States.

31 d. A student who is dismissed for academic or disciplinary
32 reasons from a county college shall no longer be eligible for a
33 scholarship under this act. If a student participating in the program
34 is dismissed for disciplinary reasons, the student shall repay in full
35 all amounts received under the program. The county college shall
36 be responsible for collecting the repayment, or the amount of any
37 overpayment or other improper payment, of any State awards under
38 the program, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.18A:71B-
39 10.

40 e. A student scholarship under the NJ STARS Program may be
41 renewed upon the student's filing of a renewal financial aid
42 application and providing evidence that the student has satisfied the
43 requirements pursuant to subsection b. of this section.

44 (cf: P.L.2007, c.214, s.1)

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46 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
47 the 2009-2010 academic year.

STATEMENT

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3 Under current law, New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance
4 Rewards Program (NJ STARS) students are eligible to enroll in a
5 New Jersey county college located outside the student's county of
6 residence without losing NJ STARS eligibility only when the
7 county college serving the student's county of residence does not
8 offer the curriculum that the student chooses to study.

9 This bill provides that an NJ STARS student may also enroll in a
10 county college outside of his county of residence if the county
11 college is located in closer proximity to his place of residence. The
12 bill requires that the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority
13 establish the criteria and documentation which will be used to
14 demonstrate the student's eligibility for an NJ STARS scholarship
15 under such circumstances.