P.L. 2003, CHAPTER 132, approved July 17, 2003
Assembly, No. 2428 (Second Reprint)

AN ACT creating the "Statewide Tuition Waiver Program" for certain students under the care or custody of the State and supplementing P.L.1951, c.138 (C.30:4C-1 et seq.).

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

1. As used in this act: "Tuition" means the charges imposed by a New Jersey public institution of higher education or county vocational school providing post-secondary vocational education, for enrollment at the institution or school.

2. There is created in the Department of Human Services the "Statewide Tuition Waiver Program." The purpose of the program is to provide State-paid tuition to children who have been under the care and custody of the Division of Youth and Family Services pursuant to section 11 of P.L.1951, c.138 (C.30:4C-11), and who are interested in pursuing a college or post-secondary vocational education at a public institution of higher education or county vocational school in this State.

3. a. A child shall be eligible to qualify for the program if the child meets the following requirements at the time of the initial application to the Commissioner of Human Services for a tuition waiver pursuant to subsection b. of this section:

   (1) the child is [18] 16 to 23 years of age;

   (2) the child:

      (a) [was in a foster care placement supervised by the Division of Youth and Family Services in the Department of Human Services that was terminated once the child reached the age of 18; or

      (b) is or has been residing in an independent living arrangement operated or approved for payment by the division]

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.
Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:
1 Assembly AFW committee amendments adopted November 25, 2002.
care and custody of the Division of Youth and Family Services in the
Department of Human Services for a period of nine months or more
following the child’s sixteenth birthday;

(b) is or has been residing in an independent living arrangement, or
a transitional living program established pursuant to P.L.1999, c.224
(C.9:12A-2 et seq.), operated or approved for payment by the division;
or

(c) is or has been residing in a transitional living program located
in the State of New Jersey and approved for payment by the federal
government pursuant to the federal “Runaway and Homeless Youth
Act,” Title III of Pub.L. 93-415 (42 U.S.C.A. s.5701 et seq.);

(3) the child has received a high school diploma or a certificate of
high school equivalency; and

(4) the child has been granted admission to a New Jersey public
institution of higher education or county vocational school.

b. A child who meets the eligibility requirements listed in this
section may apply to the Commissioner of Human Services for a
tuition waiver in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner.

c. Upon receipt of an application, the Commissioner of Human
Services shall review the application and if the child meets the program
eligibility requirements, the commissioner shall approve the application
and notify the appropriate New Jersey public institution of higher
education or county vocational school that the child qualifies for a
tuition waiver.

d. Eligibility for the program shall be limited to five years
following graduation from high school or the receipt of a certificate
of high school equivalency from the date the child applied to the
Commissioner of Human Services for a tuition waiver pursuant to
subsection b. of this section.

e. Each child approved for the program shall be required to enroll
in a full-time degree, diploma or certificate program or course of
undergraduate study and make satisfactory progress toward the
completion of an academic degree remain in good academic
standing retain satisfactory academic progress during the time the
child qualifies for a tuition waiver.

4. Upon receiving approval for a tuition waiver pursuant to
subsection c. of section 3 of this act, the child The applicant shall
complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid to determine
the level of need and eligibility for State and federal financial aid
programs. If the sum of the tuition waiver plus other federal, State
and institutional student financial assistance, except loans, exceeds the
total cost of the child’s tuition, the tuition waiver shall be reduced by
the amount exceeding that cost.

5. Subject to the ”Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410
(C.52:14B-1 et seq.), the Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation with the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education and the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority, shall adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act.

6. This act shall take effect immediately.

Creates "Statewide Tuition Waiver Program" for certain students under care and custody of DYFS.