ASSEMBLY, No. 3546 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 215th LEGISLATURE

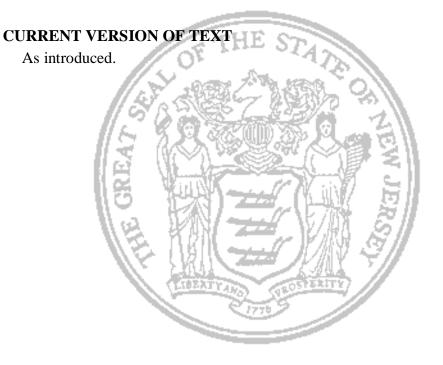
INTRODUCED DECEMBER 6, 2012

Sponsored by: Assemblywoman CELESTE M. RILEY District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem) Assemblyman JOHN J. BURZICHELLI District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem) Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT District 6 (Burlington and Camden) Assemblyman JOHN DIMAIO District 23 (Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren)

Co-Sponsored by: Assemblywomen Angelini, Mosquera, Assemblymen Rumana and Caputo

SYNOPSIS

Eliminates requirement that every full-time student at an institution of higher education in New Jersey maintain health insurance coverage.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/22/2013)

1 AN ACT concerning health insurance coverage for students at 2 institutions of higher education and amending P.L.1991, c.187. 3 4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State 5 of New Jersey: 6 7 1. Section 77 of P.L.1991, c.187 (C.18A:62-15) is amended to 8 read as follows: 9 77. a. Every student enrolled as a full-time student at a public 10 or private institution of higher education in this State shall maintain 11 health insurance coverage which provides basic hospital benefits. The coverage shall be maintained throughout the period of the 12 13 student's enrollment. 14 b. Every student enrolled as a full-time student shall present evidence of the health insurance coverage required by subsection a. 15 16 of this section to the institution at least annually, in a manner 17 prescribed by the institution. c.] The State Department of Health shall require all public and 18 19 private institutions of higher education in this State to offer health 20 insurance coverage on a group or individual basis for purchase by 21 students who are [required to maintain the coverage pursuant to this 22 section] enrolled full-time at the institution. 23 [d.] b. The Commissioner of Health shall adopt rules and 24 regulations pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," 25 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) to carry out the purposes of 26 [subsections a., b. and c.] <u>subsection a.</u> of this section. 27 e. The Student Assistance Board in but not of the Department 28 of the Treasury shall adopt rules and regulations to require that a 29 public or private institution of higher education in this State 30 consider the coverage required pursuant to this section as an 31 educational cost for purposes of determining a student's eligibility 32 for financial aid. 33 f. Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit a 34 hospital in this State to deny access to hospital care to a full-time student whose health insurance coverage required by this section 35 36 lapses for any reason. 37 g. The provisions of this section shall not apply to a person 38 who is a participant in the REACH program established pursuant to P.L.1987, c.282 (C.44:10-9 et seq.). 39 40 (cf: P.L.1994, c.48, s.87) 41

42 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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.

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STATEMENT

3 This bill amends current law to eliminate the requirement that every student who is enrolled full-time at a public or private 4 5 institution of higher education in New Jersey maintain health 6 insurance coverage which provides basic hospital benefits. The bill 7 also eliminates the requirement that every full-time student annually present evidence of health insurance coverage and other provisions 8 9 related to the health insurance coverage requirement. Any 10 requirements for health insurance coverage imposed at the federal level by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) 11 12 would still be applicable.

13 The bill maintains the present requirement that all institutions of

14 higher education in New Jersey offer health insurance coverage for

15 purchase by students who are enrolled full-time at the institution.

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