

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.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(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.

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

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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.
12 The coverage shall be maintained throughout the period of the
13 student's enrollment.

14 b. Every student enrolled as a full-time student shall present
15 evidence of the health insurance coverage required by subsection a.
16 of this section to the institution at least annually, in a manner
17 prescribed by the institution.

18 c.**]** The State Department of Health shall require all public and
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.**]** subsection a. 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
35 student whose health insurance coverage required by this section
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
39 P.L.1987, c.282 (C.44:10-9 et seq.).**]**

40 (cf: P.L.1994, c.48, s.87)

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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.

STATEMENT

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

The bill maintains the present requirement that all institutions of higher education in New Jersey offer health insurance coverage for purchase by students who are enrolled full-time at the institution.