SENATE, No. 2621

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 5, 2016

Sponsored by:
Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM
District 31 (Hudson)

Senator STEPHEN M. SWEENEY
District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

SYNOPSIS
Allows students to use tuition aid grant awards during summer session.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT
As introduced.
AN ACT concerning the use of tuition aid grants and supplementing chapter 71B of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

1. a. A student may elect to use a portion of a tuition aid grant award to enroll in the summer session that follows the academic year. Prior to the beginning of the academic year, a student shall notify the authority of the student’s intent to use a portion of the tuition aid grant award for the summer session, and the authority shall adjust the amount of the tuition aid grant award that will be disbursed during the academic year accordingly.

   b. The use of a tuition aid grant award for a summer session shall not count towards the number of academic years for which a student is eligible to receive a grant pursuant to the provisions of subsection b. of N.J.S.18A:71B-20.

2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to the first full academic year following the date of enactment.

STATEMENT

Regulations promulgated by the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority restrict the number of semesters for which a student may receive an award payment under the tuition aid grant (TAG) program in a manner that precludes students from using a TAG award to support the cost of enrolling in a summer session. This bill provides that a student may elect to use a portion of a TAG award during the summer session following the academic year. The use of a TAG award during a summer session would not count towards the statutory limit on the number of academic years for which a student remains eligible to receive a TAG award. This bill implements a recommendation of the College Affordability Study Commission which released its final report in September 2016.