

ASSEMBLY, No. 1997

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2018 SESSION

Sponsored by:

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SYNOPSIS

Establishes Tuition Aid Grant Study Commission to examine New Jersey's Tuition Aid Grant Program and make recommendations regarding improvements to program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/5/2018)

1 AN ACT establishing the "Tuition Aid Grant Study Commission."

2

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

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6 1. a. There is established a Tuition Aid Grant Study
7 Commission for the purpose of examining the operation of the
8 Tuition Aid Grant Program established pursuant to N.J.S.18A:71B-
9 18 et seq., and developing recommendations for improvements to
10 the program. The commission shall consist of nine members as
11 follows:

12 (1) the Executive Director of the Higher Education Student
13 Assistance Authority, or a designee;

14 (2) four members appointed by the Governor, including a
15 representative of the State colleges and universities established
16 pursuant to chapter 64 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes, a
17 representative of the public research universities, a representative of
18 the county colleges, and a representative of the independent
19 colleges and universities;

20 (3) two public members appointed by the President of the Senate;
21 and

22 (4) two public members appointed by the Speaker of the General
23 Assembly.

24 b. Appointments to the commission shall be made within 30
25 days of the effective date of this act. Vacancies in the membership
26 of the commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original
27 appointments were made.

28 c. Members of the commission shall serve without
29 compensation but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses
30 incurred in the performance of their duties within the limits of funds
31 made available to the commission for its purposes.

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33 2. a. The commission shall organize as soon as practicable, but
34 no later than 30 days following the appointment of its members.
35 The commission shall choose a chairperson from among its
36 members and shall appoint a secretary who need not be a member
37 of the commission.

38 b. The Higher Education Student Assistance Authority shall
39 provide such professional staff and related support services as the
40 commission requires to carry out its work. The commission also
41 shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail itself of the
42 services of the employees of any State, county, or municipal
43 department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it may require
44 and as may be available to it for its purposes.

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46 3. It shall be the duty of the Tuition Aid Grant Study
47 Commission to examine and evaluate the Tuition Aid Grant
48 Program established pursuant to N.J.S.18A:71B-18 et seq.; to

- 1 identify any barriers, gaps, or deficiencies in the successful
2 operation of the program; and to develop recommendations for
3 improvements to the program. The commission shall study and
4 consider issues, including but not limited to, the following:
- 5 a. the tuition aid grant amounts currently awarded to eligible
6 students;
 - 7 b. the percentage of higher education tuition costs covered by
8 tuition aid grants;
 - 9 c. adjustments in the level of tuition aid grant awards from one
10 fiscal year to the next, including a review of the different formulas
11 or methods used over different fiscal years to calculate the amount
12 of a tuition aid grant;
 - 13 d. the methodology used to calculate the New Jersey Eligibility
14 Index;
 - 15 e. the graduation rates of tuition aid grant recipients;
 - 16 f. the history of State appropriations made to support the
17 Tuition Aid Grant Program; and
 - 18 g. the sufficiency of the tuition aid grants awarded to eligible
19 students in light of the original intent of the statute establishing the
20 Tuition Aid Grant Program.

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22 4. The commission shall issue a report of its findings and
23 recommendations concerning the Tuition Aid Grant Program to the
24 Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991,
25 c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), no later than 12 months after the commission
26 organizes.

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28 5. This act shall take effect immediately, and the commission
29 shall expire 30 days after the submission of its report.

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32 STATEMENT

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34 This bill establishes a Tuition Aid Grant (TAG) Study
35 Commission, which will examine the operation of the State's
36 Tuition Aid Grant Program and develop recommendations for
37 improvements to the program. The commission will include the
38 following nine members: the Executive Director of the Higher
39 Education Student Assistance Authority; four members appointed
40 by the Governor, including a representative of the State colleges
41 and universities, a representative of the public research universities,
42 a representative of the county colleges, and a representative of the
43 independent colleges and universities; two public members
44 appointed by the President of the Senate; and two public members
45 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly.

46 Under the bill, the TAG Study Commission is tasked with
47 examining and evaluating the Tuition Aid Grant Program,
48 identifying any barriers, gaps, or deficiencies in the successful

1 operation of the program, and developing recommendations for
2 program improvements. In particular, the commission will study
3 and consider the following issues: (a) tuition aid grant amounts
4 currently awarded to eligible students; (b) the percentage of tuition
5 costs covered by tuition aid grants; (c) adjustments in the level of
6 tuition aid grant awards from one fiscal year to the next, including
7 the different formulas or methods used over different fiscal years to
8 calculate the amount of a tuition aid grant; (d) the methodology
9 used to calculate the New Jersey Eligibility Index; (e) the
10 graduation rates of tuition aid grant recipients; (f) the history of
11 State appropriations made to support the Tuition Aid Grant
12 Program; and (g) the sufficiency of the tuition aid grants awarded to
13 eligible students in light of the original intent of the statute
14 establishing the Tuition Aid Grant Program.

15 The bill directs the TAG Study Commission to issue a report of
16 its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the
17 Legislature no later than 12 months after the commission organizes.