

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 775

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
218th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2018 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM

District 31 (Hudson)

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District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)

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

As reported by the Senate Higher Education Committee on March 7, 2019, with amendments.



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:*

5

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 ¹~~【nine】~~ 10¹ members
11 as follows:

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

14 (2) ¹~~【four】~~ five¹ members appointed by the Governor, including
15 a 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, ¹~~【and】~~¹ a representative of the independent
19 colleges and universities ¹, and a representative of the proprietary
20 schools which have been authorized to offer licensed degree
21 programs¹;

22 (3) two public members appointed by the President of the Senate;
23 and

24 (4) two public members appointed by the Speaker of the General
25 Assembly.

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

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

34

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

40 b. The Higher Education Student Assistance Authority shall
41 provide such professional staff and related support services as the
42 commission requires to carry out its work. The commission also
43 shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail itself of the
44 services of the employees of any State, county, or municipal

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SHI committee amendments adopted March 7, 2019.

1 department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it may require
2 and as may be available to it for its purposes.

3
4 3. It shall be the duty of the Tuition Aid Grant Study
5 Commission to examine and evaluate the Tuition Aid Grant
6 Program established pursuant to N.J.S.18A:71B-18 et seq.; to
7 identify any barriers, gaps, or deficiencies in the successful
8 operation of the program; and to develop recommendations for
9 improvements to the program. The commission shall study and
10 consider issues, including but not limited to, the following:

11 a. the tuition aid grant amounts currently awarded to eligible
12 students;

13 b. the percentage of higher education tuition costs covered by
14 tuition aid grants;

15 c. adjustments in the level of tuition aid grant awards from one
16 fiscal year to the next, including a review of the different formulas
17 or methods used over different fiscal years to calculate the amount
18 of a tuition aid grant;

19 d. the methodology used to calculate the New Jersey Eligibility
20 Index;

21 e. ¹the characteristics of students whose eligibility for a tuition
22 aid grant differs from their eligibility for federal need-based aid, as
23 calculated by the New Jersey Eligibility Index and the federal
24 methodology for the Expected Family Contribution, respectively;

25 f.¹ the graduation rates of tuition aid grant recipients;

26 ¹**[f.] g.**¹ the history of State appropriations made to support
27 the Tuition Aid Grant Program; and

28 ¹**[g.] h.**¹ the sufficiency of the tuition aid grants awarded to
29 eligible students in light of the original intent of the statute
30 establishing the Tuition Aid Grant Program.

31
32 4. The commission shall issue a report of its findings and
33 recommendations concerning the Tuition Aid Grant Program to the
34 Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991,
35 c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), no later than 12 months after the commission
36 organizes.

37
38 5. This act shall take effect immediately, and the commission
39 shall expire 30 days after the submission of its report.