

[Second Reprint]

**SENATE, No. 775**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**218th LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2018 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

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**Senator NICHOLAS J. SACCO**

**District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)**

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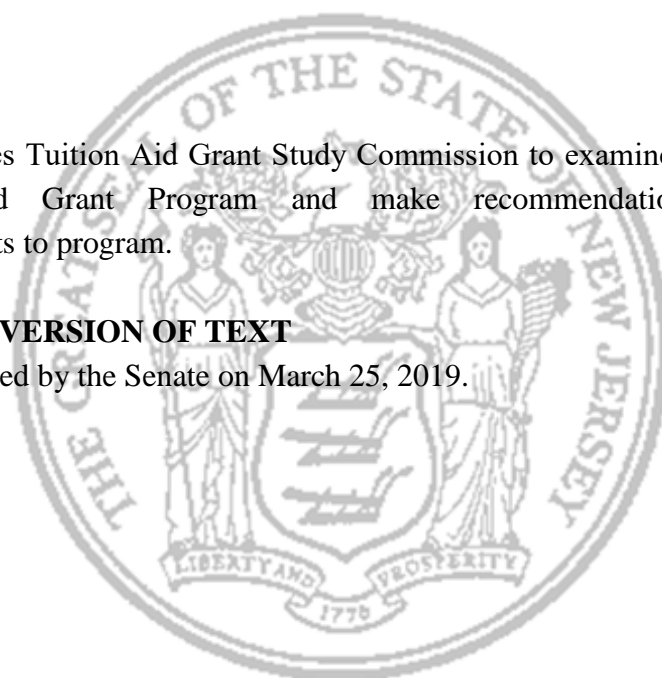
**Senators Ruiz, Pou, Assemblyman Calabrese, Assemblywomen McKnight,  
Pinkin, Timberlake and Murphy**

**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 amended by the Senate on March 25, 2019.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/17/2019)**

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 <sup>1</sup>~~nine~~ <sup>10</sup> members  
11 as follows:

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

14 (2) <sup>1</sup>~~four~~ <sup>five</sup> 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, <sup>1</sup>~~and~~ <sup>1</sup> a representative of the independent  
19 colleges and universities <sup>1</sup>, and a representative of the proprietary  
20 schools which have been authorized to offer licensed degree  
21 programs<sup>1</sup>;

22 (3) two public members appointed by the President of the  
23 Senate; 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,  
36 but 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

**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:

<sup>1</sup>Senate SHI committee amendments adopted March 7, 2019.

<sup>2</sup>Senate floor amendments adopted March 25, 2019.

1 services of the employees of any State, county, or municipal  
2 department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it may require  
3 and as may be available to it for its purposes.  
4

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

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

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

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

20 d. <sup>2</sup>[the methodology used to calculate the New Jersey  
21 Eligibility Index;

22 e.]<sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup>the characteristics of students whose eligibility for a  
23 tuition aid grant differs from their eligibility for federal need-based  
24 aid, as calculated by the New Jersey Eligibility Index and the  
25 federal methodology for the Expected Family Contribution,  
26 respectively;

27 <sup>2</sup>[<sup>1</sup>f.] <sup>2</sup>e. the graduation rates of tuition aid grant recipients;

28 <sup>2</sup>[<sup>1</sup>f.] <sup>1</sup>g.] <sup>2</sup>f. the history of State appropriations made to  
29 support the Tuition Aid Grant Program; and

30 <sup>2</sup>[<sup>1</sup>g.] <sup>1</sup>h.] <sup>2</sup>g. the sufficiency of the tuition aid grants  
31 awarded to eligible students in light of the original intent of the  
32 statute establishing the Tuition Aid Grant Program.  
33

34 4. The commission shall issue a report of its findings and  
35 recommendations concerning the Tuition Aid Grant Program to the  
36 Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991,  
37 c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), no later than 12 months after the commission  
38 organizes.  
39

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