## [Second Reprint]

### SENATE, No. 3063

### STATE OF NEW JERSEY

### 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 15, 2018

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

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#### **SYNOPSIS**

Provides tuition fee waiver apprenticeship courses.

#### **CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee on January 17, 2019, with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/14/2020)

**AN ACT** concerning apprenticeship tuition fees and supplementing chapter 62 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

#### 1. As used in this act:

"Eligible person" means an individual whose gross aggregate household income at the time of admission to a New Jersey public institution of higher education or county vocational school providing post-secondary vocational education is below the State household median income.

"Gross aggregate household income" means the total annual income of all members of a household, from whatever source derived, including, but not limited to, pension, annuity, retirement and Social Security benefits received during the taxable year.

"Registered apprenticeship" means an apprenticeship in a program providing to each trainee combined classroom and on-the-job training under the direct and close supervision of a highly skilled worker in an occupation recognized as an apprenticeable trade, and registered by the Office of Apprenticeship of the United States Department of Labor and meeting the standards established by that office.

"State household median income" means the point that divides the gross aggregate household income distribution into halves, one-half with income above the median and the other with income below the median <sup>1</sup>as determined by the United States Census Bureau American Community Survey<sup>1</sup>. The median is based on the income distribution of all households, including those with no income in the State.

"Tuition" means the charges imposed by a New Jersey public institution of higher education or county vocational school providing post-secondary vocational education for enrollment at the institution or school.

2. a. An eligible person shall be permitted to attend <sup>2</sup> [regularly-scheduled] , tuition-free, <sup>2</sup> courses <sup>2</sup> available <sup>2</sup> at any public institution of higher education or county vocational school <sup>2</sup> [and to receive a certification of completion] which are qualified to serve as the classroom training or education component <sup>2</sup> of a registered apprenticeship <sup>1</sup> [as defined in section 1 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)] <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> [tuition-free] program in which the person is participating as a registered apprentice <sup>2</sup> if:

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  $\underline{\text{thus}}$  is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Senate SLA committee amendments adopted December 3, 2018.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Senate SBA committee amendments adopted January 17, 2019.

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1	(1) 'the person has been in the labor workforce for at least six
2	months;
3	(2)] <sup>1</sup> tuition costs are not covered by an employer through
4	employment benefits;
5	<sup>1</sup> [(3)] (2) <sup>1</sup> the person completes a Free Application for Federal
6	Student Aid each year within the established deadlines and has
7	exhausted all financial aid assistance; and
8	$^{1}$ [(4)] $\underline{(3)}^{1}$ the person $^{2}$ retains employment as an active registered
9	apprentice under the registered apprenticeship program and <sup>2</sup> maintains
10	satisfactory academic progress to qualify for renewal of the tuition
11	waiver.
12	b. The State shall reimburse a public institution of higher
13	education or county vocational school for the tuition cost of each
14	eligible person who enrolls in the institution pursuant to the provisions
15	of this section.
16	
17	3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
18	the first full academic year following the date of enactment.