

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 1634

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

SYNOPSIS

Requires Higher Education Student Assistance Authority to issue vouchers in amount of monthly loan repayment amount for loan borrowers who have child enrolled in Grow NJ Kids-rated child care program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Higher Education Committee on June 2, 2021, with amendments.



1 AN ACT concerning student loan repayment ¹**【waivers】** vouchers¹ for
 2 certain borrowers and supplementing chapter 71C of Title 18A of
 3 the New Jersey Statutes.

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

7
 8 1. As used in this act:

9 “Approved program” means a licensed child care center, a
 10 school- or center-based preschool program, a Head Start program,
 11 or a registered family child care provider which has achieved a
 12 Grow NJ Kids rating of at least three.

13 “Authority” means the Higher Education Student Assistance
 14 Authority” established pursuant to N.J.S.18A:71A-3.

15 “Grow NJ Kids” means New Jersey’s quality rating improvement
 16 system designed to raise the quality of child care and early learning
 17 programs.

18 “Program” means the Grow NJ Kids Student Loan ¹**【Waiver】**
 19 Voucher¹ Program established pursuant to section 2 of this act.

20 “Program participant” means a ¹**【New Jersey College Loans to**
 21 **Assist State Students (NJCLASS) Loan Program】** State or federal
 22 student aid loan program¹ borrower who has a child enrolled in an
 23 approved program and who has applied and been accepted by the
 24 authority for participation in the Grow NJ Kids Student Loan
 25 ¹**【Waiver】** Voucher¹ Program.

26
 27 2. There is established a Grow NJ Kids Student Loan
 28 ¹**【Waiver】** Voucher¹ Program within the Higher Education Student
 29 Assistance Authority. Under the program, the authority shall
 30 ¹**【reduce】** issue a voucher to an eligible borrower in the amount of¹
 31 the principal monthly loan repayment amount for an eligible ¹**【New**
 32 **Jersey College Loans to Assist State Students (NJCLASS) Loan**
 33 **Program】**¹ borrower who has a child enrolled in an approved
 34 program ¹**【**, by the amount of the approved program’s monthly
 35 tuition. The borrower shall pay any principal monthly loan
 36 repayment amount that exceeds the amount waived by the authority
 37 plus any interest¹**】**. The State shall appropriate such amounts as
 38 may be necessary to offset the loan principal amounts ¹**【waived】**
 39 provided through the vouchers authorized¹ under the program.

40
 41 3. To be eligible to participate in the program, an applicant
 42 shall:

- 43 a. be a resident of the State;
 44 b. provide evidence of his child’s enrollment in an approved
 45 program;

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:

¹Assembly AHI committee amendments adopted June 2, 2021.

1 c. submit an application to participate in the program to the
2 authority in a time and manner as determined by the authority;

3 ¹~~["and"]~~¹

4 d. ¹have an individual annual income of no greater than \$75,000
5 or a combined household income of no greater than \$150,000; and

6 e.¹ satisfy any additional criteria the authority may establish.

7
8 4. a. A program participant shall enter into a contract with the
9 authority. The contract shall specify the amount of the monthly
10 ¹~~["loan repayment to be waived by the authority and the monthly~~
11 ~~amount"]~~ voucher¹ to be ¹~~["paid by the"]~~ issued to a¹ program
12 participant.

13 b. A program participant who has entered into a contract with
14 the authority may nullify the contract by notifying the authority in
15 writing and assuming full responsibility for the total monthly loan
16 repayment amount.

17
18 5. A program participant shall immediately notify the authority
19 if:

20 a. there is a change in the tuition amount charged by the
21 approved program;

22 b. the child is no longer enrolled in the approved program; or

23 c. the child transfers from the approved program to another
24 approved program, or to another child care program that does not
25 have a Grow NJ Kids rating of at least three.

26
27 6. The authority shall provide:

28 a. each licensed child care center, school- or center-based
29 preschool program, Head Start program, or registered family child
30 care provider with information on the Grow NJ Kids ¹~~["initiative,~~
31 ~~including information on how to attain a Grow NJ Kids rating"]~~
32 Student Loan Voucher Program¹; and

33 b. ¹~~["each NJCLASS Loan Program borrower with information on~~
34 ~~the Grow NJ Kids Student Loan Waiver Program"]~~ information on the
35 Grow NJ Kids Student Loan Voucher Program to the general public
36 through the authority's website and through other relevant outreach to
37 loan borrowers as determined by the authority¹.

38
39 ¹7. An approved program shall publicize the Grow NJ Kids
40 Student Loan Voucher Program within their facility, on their
41 websites, and through any other relevant communications to
42 individuals, as deemed appropriate by the approved program.¹

43
44 ¹~~["7."] 8.~~¹ The authority shall adopt in accordance with the
45 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et

1 seq.), rules and regulations as may be necessary to implement the
2 provisions of this act.

3

4 ¹**[8.]** 9.¹ This act shall take effect immediately.