

# SENATE, No. 296

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator JOSEPH PENNACCHIO**

**District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)**

**Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes scholarship program for graduate students and postdoctoral researchers in field of fusion science.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT establishing a scholarship program for certain graduate  
2 students and postdoctoral researchers and supplementing chapter  
3 71B of Title 18A of 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. a. The Higher Education Student Assistance Authority shall  
9 administer a scholarship program for graduate students and  
10 postdoctoral researchers studying or conducting research in the  
11 State in the fields of plasma physics and fusion energy science. The  
12 goal of the program shall be to support the education and career  
13 development of scholars who seek to advance the science and  
14 innovations needed to realize fusion as a safe, economical, and  
15 environmentally attractive energy source for the world's long-term  
16 energy needs. Under the program, the authority shall award ten  
17 scholarships annually in the amount of \$12,500 each to qualified  
18 recipients enrolled in or employed by an institution of higher  
19 education in the State.

20 b. In order to be eligible for the scholarship, a candidate shall  
21 submit an application to the authority, including a written  
22 commitment from the institution of higher education at which the  
23 candidate is enrolled or employed to match the scholarship in the  
24 event the candidate is selected to receive one. A candidate shall  
25 also submit a written statement to the authority, detailing the  
26 candidate's ongoing commitment to the fields of plasma physics  
27 and fusion energy science. The authority shall appoint a three-  
28 member selection committee, to review scholarship applications and  
29 make final determinations on scholarship awards. Members of the  
30 selection committee shall be selected based on their academic  
31 expertise in the field of plasma physics and fusion energy science.

32 c. Each scholarship awarded under this act shall be contingent  
33 upon the recipient receiving an equal scholarship from the  
34 institution of higher education at which the scholar recipient is  
35 enrolled or employed, and remaining in good standing at the  
36 institution.

37 d. There shall be annually appropriated to the Higher Education  
38 Student Assistance Authority \$125,000 for the purposes of this act.  
39

40 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to  
41 the 2020-2021 academic year.  
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44 STATEMENT

45  
46 This bill directs the Higher Education Student Assistance  
47 Authority to administer a scholarship program for graduate students  
48 and postdoctoral researchers studying or conducting research in the

1 State in the fields of plasma physics and fusion energy science. The  
2 goal of the program is to support the education and career  
3 development of scholars who seek to advance the science and  
4 innovations needed to realize fusion as a safe, economical, and  
5 environmentally attractive energy source for the world's long-term  
6 energy needs. Under the program, the authority will award ten  
7 scholarships annually in the amount of \$12,500 each to qualified  
8 recipients.

9 The bill provides that in order to be eligible for the scholarship, a  
10 candidate must submit an application to the authority, including a  
11 written commitment from the institution of higher education at  
12 which the candidate is enrolled or employed to match the  
13 scholarship in the event the candidate is selected to receive one. A  
14 candidate must also submit a written statement to the authority,  
15 detailing the candidate's ongoing commitment to the fields of  
16 plasma physics and fusion energy science. The authority will  
17 appoint a three-member selection committee, to review scholarship  
18 applications and make final determinations on scholarship awards.  
19 Members of the selection committee will be selected based on their  
20 academic expertise in the field of plasma physics and fusion energy  
21 science. Each scholarship awarded will be contingent upon the  
22 recipient receiving an equal scholarship from the institution of  
23 higher education at which the scholar recipient is enrolled or  
24 employed, and remaining in good standing at the institution.

25 Under the bill, \$125,000 will be annually appropriated to the  
26 authority for the bill's purposes.