

[First Reprint]

**SENATE, No. 961**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**219th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED JANUARY 27, 2020

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**District 7 (Burlington)**

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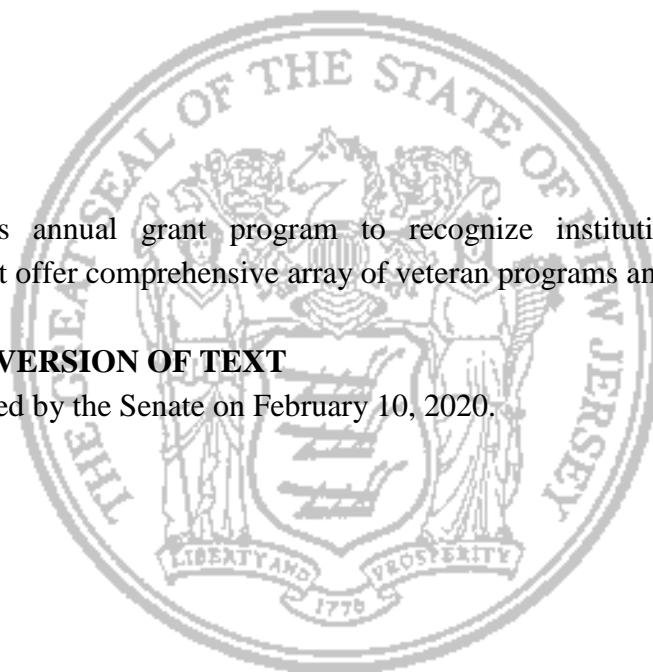
**Senators Brown, Greenstein, Addiego, Madden, Pou, Assemblywoman  
Murphy, Assemblyman DeAngelo, Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson,  
Assemblymen Benson, Scharfenberger, Moen, Space, Wirths, Johnson,  
Freiman, Assemblywomen Vainieri Huttle, Swain and Timberlake**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes annual grant program to recognize institutions of higher education that offer comprehensive array of veteran programs and services.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As amended by the Senate on February 10, 2020.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/20/2021)**

1 AN ACT establishing a Troops to College Grant Program and  
2 amending P.L.2009, c.125.

3

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

6

7 1. Section 2 of P.L.2009, c.125 (C.18A:3B-42) is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 2. a. The **[New Jersey Commission on]** Secretary of Higher  
10 Education, in consultation with the Department of Military and  
11 Veterans' Affairs, shall establish the Troops to College Program.  
12 The purpose of the program shall be to assist New Jersey's  
13 <sup>1</sup>**[public]** institutions of higher education in coordinating the  
14 provision of a comprehensive array of services to assist veterans in  
15 making the transition into the college classroom. The services may  
16 include, but need not be limited to, assistance in applying for State  
17 and federal student financial aid, counseling resources, a campus  
18 veterans' assistance officer to provide a single point of contact for  
19 information on the institution's benefits and programs for veterans,  
20 and an online resource to consolidate pertinent information  
21 specifically for veterans attending that institution.

22 b. The **[commission]** secretary in implementing the Troops to  
23 College Program shall include on its Internet site information to  
24 assist veterans in accessing the higher education opportunities that  
25 exist in the State. The information shall include, but need not be  
26 limited to:

27 (1) contact information for the campus veterans' assistance  
28 officer at each of the <sup>1</sup>**[public]** institutions of higher education;  
29 and

30 (2) information on the array of programs and services available  
31 to veterans at each of the <sup>1</sup>**[public]** institutions of higher  
32 education.

33 c. The secretary, in consultation with the department, shall  
34 establish a Troops to College Grant Program. Under the program,  
35 the secretary shall annually select up to three <sup>1</sup>**[public]** institutions  
36 of higher education to receive a \$150,000 Troops to College grant.  
37 In order to receive a grant, an institution shall demonstrate that it is  
38 providing a comprehensive array of services, benefits, and programs  
39 for veterans attending the institution. In awarding a grant to an  
40 institution, the secretary shall consider the following factors:

41 (1) the total number of <sup>1</sup>self-reporting<sup>1</sup> veterans enrolled in the  
42 institution;

43 (2) the existence of a veterans' affairs office at the institution  
44 and the number of staff assigned to the office;

45 (3) whether the institution has entered into the Department of

**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 floor amendments adopted February 10, 2020.

1 Defense Voluntary Education Partnership Memorandum of  
2 Understanding;

3 (4) whether the institution's tuition and fees are at or below the  
4 minimum limits established by the "Post-9/11 Veterans Educational  
5 Assistance Act of 2008," Pub.L.110-252 (38 U.S.C. s.3301 et seq.);

6 (5) whether the institution participates in the Yellow Ribbon  
7 Program of the "Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of  
8 2008," Pub.L.110-252 (38 U.S.C. s.3301 et seq.);

9 (6) whether the institution waives its application fee and offers  
10 priority registration to veterans;

11 (7) the level of academic and staff support provided to veterans  
12 enrolled in the institution;

13 (8) the number and type of extracurricular activities designed  
14 for and offered to veterans enrolled in the institution;

15 (9) the amount of institutional funds allocated to support  
16 veterans enrolled in the institution, including the number of  
17 scholarships offered to veteran students;

18 (10) whether the institution offers veteran housing or provides  
19 an area on campus where veteran students may meet and discuss  
20 issues of common interest;

21 (11) the course completion rate of 'self-reporting' veterans  
22 enrolled in the institution;

23 (12) the institution's retention and graduation rates for 'self-  
24 reporting' veterans enrolled in the institution;

25 (13) the student loan default rate for 'self-reporting' veterans  
26 enrolled in the institution; and

27 (14) the employment and salary status of 'self-reporting'  
28 veterans six years following graduation from the institution.

29 (cf: P.L.2009, c.125, s.2)

30

31 2. This act shall take effect in the first full academic year  
32 following enactment.