

# SENATE, No. 2553

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 8, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator VIN GOPAL**

**District 11 (Monmouth)**

**Senator THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.**

**District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Corrado, Brown and Pou**

**SYNOPSIS**

Provides in-State tuition status to certain veterans and family members who attend public institutions of higher education during period of mandatory remote instruction due to public health emergencies.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/29/2020)**

1 AN ACT concerning the residency status of veterans attending  
2 public institutions of higher education and amending P.L.2015,  
3 c.32.

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

7  
8 1. Section 2 of P.L.2015, c.32 (C.18A:62-4.1b) is amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 2. a. (1) A veteran or covered individual who is living in New  
11 Jersey and is attending a public institution of higher education in  
12 New Jersey shall be regarded as a resident of the State for the  
13 purpose of determining tuition, regardless of the veteran or covered  
14 individual's state of residence.

15 (2) During any period in which a public institution of higher  
16 education requires students to complete coursework through remote  
17 instruction due to a public health emergency, a veteran or covered  
18 individual who attends the public institution of higher education,  
19 but is living outside of New Jersey during the period of remote  
20 instruction, shall be regarded as a resident of the State for the  
21 purpose of determining tuition, regardless of the veteran or covered  
22 individual's state of residence.

23 b. As used in this section:

24 "Covered individual" means:

25 (1) an individual who is entitled to educational assistance under  
26 provisions of the federal "Post-9/11 Educational Assistance"  
27 program (38 U.S.C. s.3311(b)(9) or 3319) by virtue of such  
28 individual's relationship to a veteran ; and

29 (2) an individual who is entitled to educational assistance under  
30 provisions of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs'  
31 "Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program" (38 U.S.C.  
32 s.3100 et seq.) effective for courses, semesters, or terms that begin  
33 after March 1, 2019.

34 "Veteran" means a person who has served on active duty in the  
35 Uniformed Services of the United States and who was discharged or  
36 released and who qualifies for educational assistance under the  
37 federal "All-Volunteer Force Educational Assistance Program" (38  
38 U.S.C. s.3001 et seq.) or "Post-9/11 Educational Assistance"  
39 program (38 U.S.C. s.3301 et seq.).

40 (cf: P.L.2019, c.264, s.1)

41

42 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

**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.

STATEMENT

Under the “New Jersey Tuition Equality for America’s Military (NJTEAM) Act,” P.L.2015, c. 32 (C.18A:62-4.1a et seq.), a veteran or other “covered individual,” such as a veteran’s spouse or child, who qualifies for certain federal educational assistance, resides in New Jersey, and attends a public institution of higher education, is considered to be a State resident for tuition purposes and thereby eligible to pay an in-State tuition rate regardless of the individual’s state of residence.

Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, public institutions of higher education have required students to complete coursework through remote instruction. This bill amends the NJTEAM Act to allow veterans and covered individuals to continue to pay in-State tuition during any period of mandatory remote instruction due to a public health emergency, even if they are living outside of the State during the period of remote instruction. This will allow those who benefit from the provisions of the NJTEAM Act to continue to receive in-State tuition while they are temporarily out-of-state due to the public health emergency.