

ASSEMBLY, No. 1328

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Assemblyman DeCROCE

1 AN ACT concerning higher education, creating the "Tony Pompelio
2 Commemorative Scholarship Fund" for the children of crime
3 victims, and supplementing chapter 71 of Title 18A of the New
4 Jersey Statutes.

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

8
9 1. This act shall be known as, and may be cited as, the "Tony
10 Pompelio Commemorative Scholarship Fund Act."

11
12 2. The Legislature finds and declares that:
13 a. Ten percent of the crimes reported in the State are violent
14 crimes, and murder accounts for at least one percent of all violent
15 crimes committed. Victims of violent crimes and their families often
16 become crime statistics with no honorable mention.

17 b. It is appropriate to pay tribute to those who have suffered from
18 violent crime through the recognition of National Crime Victims'
19 Rights Week. The State should recognize these individuals through
20 the establishment of a special fund which will allow the children of
21 crime victims the opportunity to attend college through the
22 commemoration of the death of Tony Pompelio, a crime victim, by
23 establishing the Tony Pompelio Commemorative Scholarship Fund.

24
25 3. As used in this act, the following terms shall have the following
26 meanings:

27 "Board" means the Board of Trustees of the Tony Pompelio
28 Commemorative Scholarship Fund for the children of crime victims
29 created pursuant to this act.

30 "Chairman" means the Chairman of the Violent Crimes
31 Compensation Board.

32 "Chancellor" means the Chancellor of the Department of Higher
33 Education.

34 "Department" mean the Department of Higher Education.

35 "Public Institutions of Higher Education" means the State colleges;

1 the county colleges; the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New
2 Jersey; the New Jersey Institute of Technology; Rutgers, the State
3 University; and any other public universities, colleges, county colleges
4 and junior colleges now or hereafter established or authorized by law.

5
6 4. a. There is hereby created and established in the department a
7 scholarship fund which shall be known as the "Tony Pompelio
8 Commemorative Scholarship Fund." The fund shall consist of all
9 funds appropriated by the Legislature or otherwise made available for
10 the Tony Pompelio Commemorative Scholarship Fund program.

11 b. The fund shall be administered by a board of trustees which shall
12 consist of the chancellor or a designee of the chancellor, the chairman
13 or a designee of the chairman and eight citizens of this State who have
14 been crime victims or are family members of a crime victim. Citizen
15 members of the board shall be selected by the chairman in consultation
16 with the chancellor, and without regard to political affiliation and, on
17 the basis of their experience as crime victims or family members of a
18 crime victim.

19 c. Each citizen member of the board shall serve for a term of four
20 years and until a successor shall have been appointed and qualified.
21 Any vacancy in the membership of the board shall be filled in the same
22 manner as the original appointment for the remainder of the unexpired
23 term.

24 d. Members of the board shall serve without compensation but
25 shall be entitled to be reimbursed for all reasonable and necessary
26 expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties.

27 e. The chancellor or a designee of the chancellor in conjunction
28 with the chairman or a designee of the chairman shall serve as the chief
29 executive officers of the fund and shall organize the work of the fund
30 as deemed necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

31
32 5. The board shall:

33 a. Develop and maintain a State-wide system for the identification
34 of potential Pompelio scholars in cooperation with other State
35 departments, agencies or public institutions of higher education in the
36 State.

37 b. Recruit, select and provide financial assistance from the fund to
38 Pompelio scholars who are residents of this State in order that they
39 may be able to attend public institutions of higher education.

40 c. Communicate with departments and agencies of the United
41 States on the availability of grants to this State for purposes related or
42 similar to those set forth in this act.

43 d. Develop, establish and publicize criteria for the determination of
44 eligibility for financial assistance from the fund.

45 e. Establish procedures for determining the amount of each award
46 based on the total financial need of each Pompelio scholar and the

1 resources available to the applicant to meet the costs of the applicant's
2 higher education.

3 f. Annually report in writing to the Board of Higher Education on
4 the performance of its duties in accordance with the provisions of this
5 act.

6 g. Adopt by-laws, and make, enforce, alter and repeal rules for its
7 own operation and for carrying out the provisions of this act.

8 h. Deposit in the fund and disburse from the fund such gifts and
9 contributions as may be forthcoming from public and private sources.

10

11 6. a. The board is hereby authorized to award scholarships from
12 the fund to Pompelio scholars for undergraduate study leading to a
13 baccalaureate degree, associate degree, or other approved certificate
14 at public institutions of higher education located in New Jersey.

15 b. Grants from the fund may be awarded annually upon proper
16 application to the fund, to any Pompelio scholar who qualifies under
17 the standards to be developed and promulgated by the board.

18

19 7. a. No scholarship pursuant to this act shall be awarded to any
20 applicant unless the applicant has demonstrated to the satisfaction of
21 the board that he or she:

22 (1) Is and has been a resident of this State for at least 12 months
23 prior to receiving the grant;

24 (2) Will be or is enrolled in a full-time undergraduate program of
25 study leading to a degree or certificate at a public institution;

26 (3) Has complied with all rules and regulations adopted pursuant
27 to this act by the board for the award, regulation and administration of
28 grants from the fund.

29 b. In addition to the requirements of subsection a. of this section,
30 the board is hereby authorized to require the satisfaction of such other
31 requirements as it may deem necessary to carry out the provisions of
32 this act.

33

34 8. Scholarships awarded pursuant to this act shall be paid to
35 recipients by the State Treasurer in accordance with rules and
36 regulations adopted by the board.

37

38 9. No person shall be eligible for scholarships pursuant to this act
39 for more than four years, or for such other period of time as may be
40 determined necessary by the board for the completion of an organized
41 course of study. Each scholarship awarded pursuant to this act shall
42 remain in effect only so long as the recipient achieves satisfactory
43 academic progress as determined by the institution of attendance and
44 demonstrates continued eligibility pursuant to this act.

45

46 10. Scholarships awarded pursuant to this act shall be awarded by

1 the board without regard to race, creed, or religion and in such manner
2 and amount as may be within the limits of funds appropriated or
3 otherwise made available.

4
5 11. The State Board of Higher Education shall adopt rules and
6 regulations pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968,
7 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) necessary for the administration of this act.

8
9 12. This act shall take effect one year following enactment.

10
11
12 STATEMENT

13
14 This bill creates and establishes the "Tony Pompelio
15 Commemorative Scholarship Fund" program in the Department of
16 Higher Education to provide college scholarships to children of crime
17 victims. Tony Pompelio, 17 years old, was murdered while attempting
18 to aid a young woman who was under attack. This fund is set up in
19 memory of Tony Pompelio and in recognition of National Crime
20 Victim's Week and commemorates the victims of those families whose
21 lives have been shattered through their violent deaths.

22 The bill establishes a board of trustees to select the Pompelio
23 scholars and administer the grants. The members of the board are to
24 be appointed for four year terms by the Chairman of the Violent
25 Crimes Compensation Board in conjunction with the Chancellor of the
26 Department of Higher Education. The members appointed shall be
27 either victims of crime or family members of crime victims.

28 The bill also requires the board to develop a State-wide
29 identification system for potential Pompelio scholars in cooperation
30 with the other State departments, agencies or public institutions of
31 higher education; seek out other grants which would be available for
32 similar purposes; and establish procedures for determining the amount
33 of the award based on the applicants financial needs.

34
35
36 _____
37
38 Establishes the "Tony Pompelio Commemorative Scholarship Fund"
39 for the children of crime victims.