

SENATE, No. 2135

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JUNE 5, 1997

By Senator BRYANT

1 AN ACT establishing a gross income tax credit for taxpayers and their  
2 dependents attending New Jersey county colleges, supplementing  
3 Title 54A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

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8 1. a. A taxpayer who has paid one-half or more of the costs of  
9 tuition and maintenance of a dependent under the age of 22 years in  
10 attendance at a New Jersey county college on a full time basis shall be  
11 allowed a credit against the tax otherwise due pursuant to the "New  
12 Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq., in an amount  
13 equal to the amount of the costs of tuition and maintenance paid up to  
14 a maximum credit of \$750. No credit shall be allowed under this  
15 subsection for a taxable year if the taxpayer has claimed a deduction  
16 for the dependent pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1976, c.84  
17 (C.54A:3-1.1) for that taxable.

18 b. A taxpayer who has paid costs of tuition and maintenance for  
19 the taxpayer's attendance at a New Jersey county college on a full time  
20 basis shall be allowed a credit against the tax otherwise due pursuant  
21 to the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq., in  
22 an amount equal to the amount of the costs of tuition and maintenance  
23 paid up to a maximum credit of \$750. No credit shall be allowed  
24 under this subsection for a taxable year if the taxpayer in attendance  
25 at a county college is a dependent of another taxpayer who claims a  
26 credit for the taxpayer in attendance at a county college under  
27 subsection a. of this section for that taxable year.

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29 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall apply to taxable  
30 years beginning after enactment.

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33 STATEMENT

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35 This bill encourages greater opportunities for attendance at county  
36 colleges by establishing a \$750 gross income tax credit for payment of  
37 tuition and maintenance costs for full time attendance at a New Jersey

1 county college paid by a taxpayer either for a dependent under 22  
2 years of age or for the taxpayer's own full time attendance at a county  
3 college.

4 The tax credit of \$750 for full time attendance at a New Jersey  
5 county college can provide a tax savings that is about equal to the  
6 average annual New Jersey county college tuition for a full-time  
7 semester of 12 credits per semester. The county community college  
8 system, comprised of 19 institutions, provides access to higher  
9 education for a broad range of New Jersey residents who might  
10 otherwise be denied the benefits of a college education. This tax  
11 credit can provide a substantial financial subsidy for those taxpayers  
12 who are pursuing this gateway to a post-secondary education for  
13 themselves or their dependents.

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18 Establishes a gross income tax credit for full time enrollment at New  
19 Jersey county colleges.