

ASSEMBLY, No. 5316

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 29, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman JOANN DOWNEY

District 11 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Makes Fiscal Year 2021 supplemental appropriation of \$700,000 to Social Services Student Loan Redemption Program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A SUPPLEMENT** to "An Act making appropriations for the support
2 of the State Government and the several public purposes for the
3 fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 and regulating the disbursement
4 thereof," approved September 29, 2020 (P.L.2020, c.97).

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

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9 1. In addition to the amounts appropriated under P.L.2020, c.97,
10 the annual State appropriations act for Fiscal Year 2021, there is
11 appropriated out of the General Fund the following sum for the
12 purpose specified:
13

74 DEPARTMENT OF STATE
30 Educational, Cultural, and Intellectual Development
36 Higher Educational Services
2405 Higher Education Student Assistance Authority
FUNDING CATEGORY

45-2405 Student Assistance Programs.....	\$700,000
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Total Grants-in-Aid Appropriation,	
Higher Education Student Assistance Authority	
.....	\$700,000
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Grants-in-Aid:

45 Social Services Student Loan Redemption (\$700,000)
Program

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15 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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18 **STATEMENT**

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20 This bill provides a supplemental appropriation of \$700,000
21 from the General Fund to the Higher Education Student Assistance
22 Authority for the Social Services Student Loan Redemption
23 Program.

24 Established pursuant to P.L.2005, c.157 (C.18A:71B-87 et al.),
25 the Social Services Student Loan Redemption Program provides
26 forgiveness of up to \$20,000 in State or federal student loans, over
27 four years, to State residents who are hired to work full-time as
28 direct care professionals in qualified facilities within one year of
29 completing an approved course of study. Qualified facilities under
30 the law include: a facility operated by the Department of Human
31 Services that provides direct care services to persons served by the
32 department; a county psychiatric hospital; a facility operated by the
33 Juvenile Justice Commission; a veterans' memorial home operated
34 by the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs; and a
35 nonprofit agency in the State that contracts with the Department of

1 Human Services or the Juvenile Justice Commission to provide
2 direct care services.

3 While the Social Services Student Loan Redemption Program is
4 enshrined in the State statutes, the program has not received State
5 funding since the Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 appropriations act. In the
6 FY 2011 appropriations act, the program received \$700,000 and
7 supported 654 participants. Appropriations acts for subsequent
8 fiscal years included budget language that required that any funds
9 available for the program would only be used to benefit students
10 who had received awards prior to FY 2011.