

P.L. 2021, CHAPTER 174, *approved July 22, 2021*  
Senate, No. 278 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning access to higher education for veterans and  
2 <sup>1</sup>**【service】**<sup>1</sup> members <sup>1</sup>of the military<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>amending P.L.1997,  
3 c.377,<sup>1</sup> and supplementing chapter 62 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:*  
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9 <sup>1</sup>1. Section 1 of P.L.1997, c.377 (C.18A:62-4.2) is amended to  
10 read as follows:

11 1. a. A student at a New Jersey public institution of higher  
12 education who is unable to complete a course **【because the student is**  
13 **called to partial or full mobilization for State or federal active duty as a**  
14 **member of the National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed**  
15 **Forces of the United States】** due to deployment, mobilization,  
16 reassignment, or other military obligation as a service member shall be  
17 entitled to the options set forth in this section with respect to the  
18 student's grade for the course.

19 b. A student who has completed at least eight weeks of attendance  
20 in a course may choose to:

- 21 (1) receive a letter grade; or  
22 (2) receive a grade of pass or fail; or  
23 (3) receive a grade of incomplete; or  
24 (4) withdraw from the course.

25 c. A student who has completed less than eight weeks of  
26 attendance in a course may choose to:

- 27 (1) receive a grade of incomplete; or  
28 (2) withdraw from the course.

29 d. A letter grade or a grade of pass shall only be awarded if, in the  
30 opinion of the faculty member teaching the course, the student has  
31 completed sufficient work, and there is sufficient evidence of progress  
32 toward meeting the requirements of the course, to justify the grade.

33 e. A grade of incomplete shall remain valid for a period of one  
34 year after the student returns to the New Jersey public institution of  
35 higher education.

36 f. A student who chooses to accept a grade of pass or fail may,  
37 within one year after returning to the New Jersey public institution of  
38 higher education, receive a letter grade for the course by completing

**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 SHI committee amendments adopted January 30, 2020.

1 the work required for the course, in which case the letter grade shall  
2 replace the pass or fail grade as the student's grade for the course.

3 g. A student who chooses to withdraw from a course shall receive  
4 a full refund of tuition and fees attributable to that course.

5 h. A student who has paid amounts for room, board or fees shall,  
6 except as provided in subsection g. of this section, receive a refund of  
7 that portion of those amounts attributable to the time period during  
8 which the student did not use the services for which payment was  
9 made.

10 i. Any refund payable to a student who is a financial aid recipient  
11 shall be subject to the applicable State and federal regulations  
12 regarding refunds.

13 j. As used in this section, "service member" means an individual  
14 who is serving as a member of a Reserve component of the Armed  
15 Forces of the United States, or as a member of the National Guard, or  
16 on active duty as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States.<sup>1</sup>  
17 (cf: P.L.1997, c. 377, s.1)

18  
19 <sup>1</sup>[1.] 2. (New section)<sup>1</sup> a. As used in this section:

20 "Service member" means an individual who is serving <sup>1</sup>[on  
21 active duty as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, ]  
22 as a member of<sup>1</sup> a Reserve component <sup>1</sup>[thereof] of the Armed  
23 Forces of the United States<sup>1</sup>, or <sup>1</sup>as a member of<sup>1</sup> the National Guard  
24 <sup>1</sup>, or on active duty as a member of the Armed Forces of the United  
25 States<sup>1</sup>.

26 "Veteran" means an individual who served <sup>1</sup>[on active duty in  
27 the Armed Forces of the United States, ] as a member of<sup>1</sup> a Reserve  
28 component <sup>1</sup>[thereof] of the Armed Forces of the United States<sup>1</sup>, or  
29 <sup>1</sup>as a member of<sup>1</sup> the National Guard, <sup>1</sup>or on active duty in the Armed  
30 Forces of the United States,<sup>1</sup> and who was honorably discharged or  
31 released under honorable circumstances from active service.

32 b. <sup>1</sup>[In the event that a service member enrolled in a course at a  
33 public institution of higher education is unable to complete a course  
34 due to deployment, reassignment, or other military obligation, the  
35 institution shall issue a full refund of tuition and fees attributable to  
36 that course to the service member.

37 c. <sup>1</sup>Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, each  
38 public institution of higher education shall establish policies and  
39 procedures to permit the late registration of a student who is a  
40 veteran or a service member upon the student's return from  
41 deployment, <sup>1</sup>mobilization,<sup>1</sup> reassignment, or other military  
42 obligation. The institution shall not charge a late fee or similar  
43 penalty on a registration submitted pursuant to this subsection.

44 Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require any  
45 public institution of higher education to admit a student or to waive  
46 its admission standards.

1       <sup>1</sup>**[2.] 3.** This act shall take effect immediately and shall first  
2       apply to the first full academic year following the date of  
3       enactment.

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8       Establishes certain rights for students with military obligations  
9       attending public institutions of higher education and permits late  
10      registration for students with military obligations.