

SENATE, No. 278

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM

District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Corrado and Brown

SYNOPSIS

Requires public institution of higher education to refund course tuition and fees to certain service members and to permit late registration for veterans and service members.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/30/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning access to higher education for veterans and
2 service members, and supplementing chapter 62 of Title 18A of
3 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. As used in this section:

9 “Service member” means an individual who is serving on active
10 duty as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, a
11 Reserve component thereof, or the National Guard.

12 “Veteran” means an individual who served on active duty in the
13 Armed Forces of the United States, a Reserve component thereof, or
14 the National Guard, and who was honorably discharged or released
15 under honorable circumstances from active service.

16 b. In the event that a service member enrolled in a course at a
17 public institution of higher education is unable to complete a course
18 due to deployment, reassignment, or other military obligation, the
19 institution shall issue a full refund of tuition and fees attributable to
20 that course to the service member.

21 c. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, each
22 public institution of higher education shall establish policies and
23 procedures to permit the late registration of a student who is a
24 veteran or a service member upon the student’s return from
25 deployment, reassignment, or other military obligation. The
26 institution shall not charge a late fee or similar penalty on a
27 registration submitted pursuant to this subsection.

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

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32 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
33 the first full academic year following the date of enactment.

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STATEMENT

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38 This bill provides that, in the event that a member of the Armed
39 Forces, a Reserve component, or the National Guard enrolled in a
40 course at a public institution of higher education is unable to
41 complete a course due to deployment, reassignment, or other
42 military obligation, the institution must issue a full refund of tuition
43 and fees attributable to that course to the service member.

44 The bill also directs each public institution of higher education to
45 establish policies and procedures to permit the late registration of a
46 student who is a veteran or a service member upon the student’s
47 return from deployment, reassignment, or other military obligation.
48 Under the bill, the institution cannot charge a late fee or similar
49 penalty on a registration submitted pursuant to the bill’s provisions.