

SENATE, No. 961

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 27, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator TROY SINGLETON

District 7 (Burlington)

Senator NILSA CRUZ-PEREZ

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Brown and Greenstein

SYNOPSIS

Establishes annual grant program to recognize public institutions of higher education that offer comprehensive array of veteran programs and services.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/10/2020)

1 AN ACT establishing a Troops to College Grant Program and
2 amending P.L.2009, c.125.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. Section 2 of P.L.2009, c.125 (C.18A:3B-42) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 2. a. The **【New Jersey Commission on】** Secretary of Higher
10 Education, in consultation with the Department of Military and
11 Veterans' Affairs, shall establish the Troops to College Program.
12 The purpose of the program shall be to assist New Jersey's public
13 institutions of higher education in coordinating the provision of a
14 comprehensive array of services to assist veterans in making the
15 transition into the college classroom. The services may include, but
16 need not be limited to, assistance in applying for State and federal
17 student financial aid, counseling resources, a campus veterans'
18 assistance officer to provide a single point of contact for
19 information on the institution's benefits and programs for veterans,
20 and an online resource to consolidate pertinent information
21 specifically for veterans attending that institution.

22 b. The **【commission】** secretary in implementing the Troops to
23 College Program shall include on its Internet site information to
24 assist veterans in accessing the higher education opportunities that
25 exist in the State. The information shall include, but need not be
26 limited to:

27 (1) contact information for the campus veterans' assistance
28 officer at each of the public institutions of higher education; and

29 (2) information on the array of programs and services available
30 to veterans at each of the public institutions of higher education.

31 c. The secretary, in consultation with the department, shall
32 establish a Troops to College Grant Program. Under the program,
33 the secretary shall annually select up to three public institutions of
34 higher education to receive a \$150,000 Troops to College grant. In
35 order to receive a grant, an institution shall demonstrate that it is
36 providing a comprehensive array of services, benefits, and programs
37 for veterans attending the institution. In awarding a grant to an
38 institution, the secretary shall consider the following factors:

39 (1) the total number of veterans enrolled in the institution;

40 (2) the existence of a veterans' affairs office at the institution
41 and the number of staff assigned to the office;

42 (3) whether the institution has entered into the Department of
43 Defense Voluntary Education Partnership Memorandum of
44 Understanding;

45 (4) whether the institution's tuition and fees are at or below the
46 minimum limits established by the "Post-9/11 Veterans Educational
47 Assistance Act of 2008," Pub.L110-252 (38 U.S.C. s.3301 et seq.);

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.

1 veterans' affairs office at the institution and the number of staff
2 assigned to the office; whether the institution participates in the
3 Yellow Ribbon Program of the "Post-9/11 Veterans Educational
4 Assistance Act of 2008"; the amount of institutional funds allocated
5 to support veterans enrolled in the institution, including the number
6 of scholarships offered to veteran students; whether the institution
7 offers veteran housing or provides an area on campus where veteran
8 students may meet and discuss issues of common interest; the
9 institution's retention and graduation rates for veterans enrolled in
10 the institution; and the employment and salary status of veterans six
11 years following graduation from the institution.