

18A:62-24

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 2009 **CHAPTER:** 208

NJSA: 18A:62-24 (Requires member of New Jersey National Guard to apply for tuition benefits under Post-911 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 to qualify for tuition-free enrollment at public institutions of higher education)

BILL NO: A4253 (Substituted for S3084)

SPONSOR(S) Conners and others

DATE INTRODUCED: November 30, 2009

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Military and Veterans' Affairs

SENATE: ---

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** January 11, 2010

SENATE: January 11, 2010

DATE OF APPROVAL: January 16, 2010

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (Second reprint enacted)

A4253

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT: (Begins on page 3 of original bill) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** Yes

SENATE: No

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: Yes

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: Yes

S3084

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT: (Begins on page 3 of original bill) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** No

SENATE: Yes

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: Yes

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

(continued)

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: No

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: No

LAW/RWH

[Second Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4253

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 30, 2009

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JACK CONNERS

District 7 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblywoman CLEOPATRA G. TUCKER

District 28 (Essex)

Assemblyman DECLAN J. O'SCANLON, JR.

District 12 (Mercer and Monmouth)

Assemblywoman ELEASE EVANS

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Wagner, Assemblymen Conaway, Milam,

Assemblywoman McHose, Assemblyman Greenwald, Senators Beach,

Allen, Ruiz and Van Drew

SYNOPSIS

Requires member of New Jersey National Guard to apply for tuition benefits under Post-911 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 to qualify for tuition-free enrollment at public institutions of higher education.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended by the Senate on January 7, 2010.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/12/2010)

1 AN ACT concerning tuition assistance for members of the New
2 Jersey National Guard and amending N.J.S.18A:62-24 and
3 N.J.S.18A:62-25.

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

7
8 1. N.J.S.18A:62-24 is amended to read as follows:

9 18A:62-24. a. Any member of the New Jersey National Guard
10 shall be permitted to attend regularly-scheduled courses at any
11 public institution of higher education in this State enumerated in
12 N.J.S.18A:62-1 and receive up to 16 credits per semester tuition-
13 free provided that:

14 (1) the member has completed Initial Active Duty Training and,
15 except as otherwise provided pursuant to subsection c. of this
16 section, is in good standing as an active member of the New Jersey
17 National Guard;

18 (2) the member has been accepted to pursue a course of
19 undergraduate study and is enrolled as an undergraduate student in
20 good standing at that institution or a course of graduate study and is
21 enrolled as a graduate student in good standing at that institution;
22 **[and]**

23 (3) the member has applied for all available State student grants
24 and scholarships and all available federal student grants and
25 scholarships for which the member is eligible; and

26 (4) the member has applied for ²[all]² tuition benefits available
27 through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for which
28 the member is eligible ²under the “Post-9/11 Veterans Educational
29 Assistance Act of 2008,” Pub.L. 110-252 (38 U.S.C. s.3301 et seq.),
30 except that such application shall not be required in the case of a
31 tuition benefit transfer by the member as permitted by federal law².

32 b. The State shall reimburse a public institution of higher
33 education for the tuition cost of each National Guard member who
34 enrolls in the institution pursuant to the provisions of this section to
35 the extent that the tuition cost is not paid through tuition benefits
36 available to the member through the United States Department of
37 Veterans Affairs ²under the “Post-9/11 Veterans Educational
38 Assistance Act of 2008,” Pub.L. 110-252 (38 U.S.C. s.3301 et
39 seq.)².

40 c. Any member of the New Jersey National Guard whose
41 enrollment in a public institution of higher education on a tuition-
42 free basis pursuant to subsection a. of this section is interrupted by a
43 deployment to active duty shall be permitted to receive the free
44 tuition benefit after discharge from service under conditions other

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:

¹Assembly AMV committee amendments adopted November 30, 2009.

²Senate floor amendments adopted January 7, 2010.

1 than dishonorable. In the event of a non-medical discharge or a
2 medical discharge that is not caused by an illness or injury related
3 to the performance of duties for the National Guard, eligibility for
4 the free tuition benefit shall begin from the date of discharge and
5 shall continue for one semester or a period of time equal to the
6 length of the deployment, whichever is longer. In the event of
7 medical discharge or medical retirement as a result of illness or
8 injury incurred in the combat theater, as a result of terrorist action,
9 or in the response to a natural disaster, eligibility for the free tuition
10 benefit shall begin from the date of discharge or retirement and
11 shall continue until completion of the degree program in which
12 enrolled or for five years, whichever occurs first.

13 (cf: P.L.2007, c.11, s.1)

14

15 2. N.J.S.18A:62-25 is amended to read as follows:

16 18A:62-25.Any child or surviving spouse of a member of the
17 New Jersey National Guard who heretofore completed Initial Active
18 Duty Training and was killed in the performance of his duties while
19 on active duty with the New Jersey National Guard, or who
20 hereafter completes Initial Active Duty Training and is killed in the
21 performance of his duties while a member of the New Jersey
22 National Guard, shall be permitted to attend regularly-scheduled
23 courses at any public institution of higher education in this State
24 enumerated in N.J.S.18A:62-1 and receive up to 16 credits per
25 semester tuition-free provided that:

26 a. the child or spouse has been accepted to pursue a course of
27 undergraduate study and is enrolled as an undergraduate student in
28 good standing at that institution or a course of graduate study and is
29 enrolled as a graduate student in good standing at that institution;

30 b. the child or spouse has applied for all available State student
31 grants and scholarships and all available federal student grants and
32 scholarships for which the child or spouse is eligible; **[and]**

33 c. the child or spouse has applied for ²[all]² tuition benefits
34 available through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs
35 for which the child or spouse is eligible ²under the “Post-9/11
36 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008,” Pub.L. 110-252 (38
37 U.S.C. s.3301 et seq.)²; and

38 d. available classroom space permits and tuition-paying
39 students constitute the minimum number required for the course.

40 (cf: P.L.2007, c.11, s.2)

41

42 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall be first
43 applicable to the ¹**[2009-2010]** 2010-2011¹ academic year.

ASSEMBLY, No. 4253

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 30, 2009

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JACK CONNERS

District 7 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblywoman CLEOPATRA G. TUCKER

District 28 (Essex)

Assemblyman DECLAN J. O'SCANLON, JR.

District 12 (Mercer and Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Requires member of New Jersey National Guard to apply for all tuition benefits available through U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in order to qualify for tuition-free enrollment at a public institution of higher education.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/1/2009)

A4253 CONNERS, TUCKER

2

1 AN ACT concerning tuition assistance for members of the New
2 Jersey National Guard and amending N.J.S.18A:62-24 and
3 N.J.S.18A:62-25.

4

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

7

8 1. N.J.S.18A:62-24 is amended to read as follows:

9 18A:62-24. a. Any member of the New Jersey National Guard
10 shall be permitted to attend regularly-scheduled courses at any
11 public institution of higher education in this State enumerated in
12 N.J.S.18A:62-1 and receive up to 16 credits per semester tuition-
13 free provided that:

14 (1) the member has completed Initial Active Duty Training and,
15 except as otherwise provided pursuant to subsection c. of this
16 section, is in good standing as an active member of the New Jersey
17 National Guard;

18 (2) the member has been accepted to pursue a course of
19 undergraduate study and is enrolled as an undergraduate student in
20 good standing at that institution or a course of graduate study and is
21 enrolled as a graduate student in good standing at that institution;
22 **[and]**

23 (3) the member has applied for all available State student grants
24 and scholarships and all available federal student grants and
25 scholarships for which the member is eligible; and

26 (4) the member has applied for all tuition benefits available
27 through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for which
28 the member is eligible.

29 b. The State shall reimburse a public institution of higher
30 education for the tuition cost of each National Guard member who
31 enrolls in the institution pursuant to the provisions of this section to
32 the extent that the tuition cost is not paid through tuition benefits
33 available to the member through the United States Department of
34 Veterans Affairs.

35 c. Any member of the New Jersey National Guard whose
36 enrollment in a public institution of higher education on a tuition-
37 free basis pursuant to subsection a. of this section is interrupted by a
38 deployment to active duty shall be permitted to receive the free
39 tuition benefit after discharge from service under conditions other
40 than dishonorable. In the event of a non-medical discharge or a
41 medical discharge that is not caused by an illness or injury related
42 to the performance of duties for the National Guard, eligibility for
43 the free tuition benefit shall begin from the date of discharge and
44 shall continue for one semester or a period of time equal to the
45 length of the deployment, whichever is longer. In the event of

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 medical discharge or medical retirement as a result of illness or
2 injury incurred in the combat theater, as a result of terrorist action,
3 or in the response to a natural disaster, eligibility for the free tuition
4 benefit shall begin from the date of discharge or retirement and
5 shall continue until completion of the degree program in which
6 enrolled or for five years, whichever occurs first.

7 (cf: P.L.2007, c.11, s.1)

8

9 2. N.J.S.18A:62-25 is amended to read as follows:

10 18A:62-25. Any child or surviving spouse of a member of the
11 New Jersey National Guard who heretofore completed Initial Active
12 Duty Training and was killed in the performance of his duties while
13 on active duty with the New Jersey National Guard, or who
14 hereafter completes Initial Active Duty Training and is killed in the
15 performance of his duties while a member of the New Jersey
16 National Guard, shall be permitted to attend regularly-scheduled
17 courses at any public institution of higher education in this State
18 enumerated in N.J.S.18A:62-1 and receive up to 16 credits per
19 semester tuition-free provided that:

20 a. the child or spouse has been accepted to pursue a course of
21 undergraduate study and is enrolled as an undergraduate student in
22 good standing at that institution or a course of graduate study and is
23 enrolled as a graduate student in good standing at that institution;

24 b. the child or spouse has applied for all available State student
25 grants and scholarships and all available federal student grants and
26 scholarships for which the child or spouse is eligible; **[and]**

27 c. the child or spouse has applied for all tuition benefits
28 available through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs
29 for which the child or spouse is eligible; and

30 d. available classroom space permits and tuition-paying
31 students constitute the minimum number required for the course.

32 (cf: P.L.2007, c.11, s.2)

33

34 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall be first
35 applicable to the 2009-2010 academic year.

36

37

38

STATEMENT

39

40 This bill provides that in order to qualify for tuition-free
41 enrollment at a public institution of higher education, a member of
42 the New Jersey National Guard must apply for all tuition benefits
43 available through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs
44 for which the member is eligible. The bill imposes a similar
45 requirement on the child or surviving spouse of a member of the
46 New Jersey National Guard who is eligible under current law for a
47 tuition waiver at a public institution if available space permits and
48 tuition-paying students constitute the minimum number required for

A4253 CONNERS, TUCKER

4

- 1 the course. The bill's provisions would first apply to the 2009-2010
- 2 academic year.

ASSEMBLY MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4253

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 30, 2009

The Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly, No. 4253.

Under current law, in order to qualify for tuition-free enrollment at a public institution of higher education, a member of the New Jersey National Guard must apply for all available State student grants and scholarships and all available federal student grants and scholarships for which the member is eligible. This bill requires the member to also apply for all tuition benefits available through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for which the member is eligible. The bill imposes a similar requirement on the child or surviving spouse of a member of the New Jersey National Guard who is eligible under current law for a tuition waiver at a public institution if available space permits and tuition-paying students constitute the minimum number required for the course. The bill's provisions would first apply to the 2010-2011 academic year.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

There is a technical amendment to the bill to update the academic year the bill is applicable to, from 2009-2010 to 2010-2011.

STATEMENT TO
[First Reprint]
ASSEMBLY, No. 4253

with Senate Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Senator BEACH)

ADOPTED: JANUARY 7, 2010

These floor amendments:

- 1) limit the federal military tuition benefits for which a member of the New Jersey National Guard must apply as a condition of receiving State tuition benefits upon enrollment in a public institution of higher education to tuition benefits under the “Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008,” Pub.L. 110-52;
- 2) provide for a similar limit in the case of a child or surviving spouse of a National Guard member who is eligible under current law for a tuition waiver at a public institution of higher education if available classroom space permits and tuition paying students constitute the minimum number required for the course; and
- 3) provide that an application by a National Guard member for tuition benefits under the “Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008” will not be required if the member has elected a tuition benefit transfer as authorized under federal law.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4253

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 213th LEGISLATURE

DATED: DECEMBER 11, 2009

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Requires member of New Jersey National Guard to apply for all tuition benefits available through U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in order to qualify for tuition-free enrollment at a public institution of higher education.
- Type of Impact:** A decrease in General Fund expenditures.
- Agencies Affected:** New Jersey public institutions of higher education, Higher Education Student Assistance Authority, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
State Costs	Indeterminate reduction in State costs	Indeterminate reduction in State costs	Indeterminate reduction in State costs

- The Office of Legislative Services estimates that the bill's provisions will reduce State costs by an indeterminate amount.
- Current law directs the State to reimburse public institutions of higher education for members of the New Jersey National Guard who enroll in the institution on a tuition-free basis. The law also provides a tuition waiver to the child or surviving spouse of a Guard member who was killed in the performance of his duties if the child or spouse is enrolled in a public institution, available classroom space permits, and tuition-paying students constitute the minimum number required to finance the course. The law does not require any State reimbursement for a child or surviving spouse enrolled under the program.
- Under current law, a member of the New Jersey National Guard is required to apply for all available State student grants and scholarships and all available federal student grants and scholarships as a condition of eligibility for the tuition-free enrollment. The State is responsible for the costs of tuition remaining after the application of these State and federal student scholarships and grants.

- The bill provides that in addition to applying for all available State and federal student grants and scholarships, a New Jersey National Guard member is also required to apply for all tuition benefits available through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs in order to qualify for the tuition-free enrollment.
- For the 2009-2010 academic year, under the Post 9/11 GI Bill, eligible New Jersey National Guard members are entitled to up to \$450.67 per academic credit to finance undergraduate tuition at a New Jersey public institution of higher education. This benefit provided to New Jersey National Guard members eligible for full education benefits under the Post 9/11 GI Bill would completely offset the undergraduate tuition charges at a New Jersey public institution of higher education.

BILL DESCRIPTION

Assembly Bill No. 4253 (1R) of 2009, requires members of the New Jersey National Guard and the child or surviving spouse of a guard member killed in the performance of his duties to apply for all tuition benefits available through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs in order to qualify for tuition-free enrollment at a public institution of higher education.

Under current law, in order to qualify for tuition-free enrollment at a public institution of higher education, a member of the New Jersey National Guard, must apply for all available State student grants and scholarships and all available federal student grants and scholarships for which the person is eligible. This bill requires the member to also apply for all tuition benefits available through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for which the member is eligible. The bill imposes a similar requirement on the child or surviving spouse of a member of the New Jersey National Guard who is eligible under current law for a tuition waiver at a public institution if available space permits and tuition-paying students constitute the minimum number required to finance the course. The bill's provisions would first apply to the 2010-2011 academic year.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The Office of Legislative Services estimates that the bill's provisions will decrease State expenditures by an indeterminate amount.

Under current law the State is required to reimburse public institutions of higher education for the tuition costs of National Guard members who enroll in the institution on a tuition-free basis. The law also provides a tuition waiver to the child or surviving spouse of a Guard member who was killed in the performance of his duties if the child or spouse is enrolled in a public institution, if available classroom space permits and tuition-paying students constitute the

minimum number required to finance the course. The law does not require State reimbursement for a child or surviving spouse enrolled under the program.

While Guard members are required under current law to apply for all State and federal student aid for which they may be eligible as a condition of tuition-free enrollment, they are not currently required to apply for veteran education benefits available through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. This bill would impose that requirement.

Information available on the United States Department of Veterans Affairs' website indicates that for the 2009-2010 academic year eligible New Jersey Guard members are entitled to up to \$450.67 per academic credit under the Post 9/11 GI Bill to finance undergraduate tuition at a New Jersey public institution of higher education. The benefit provided to New Jersey National Guard members eligible for full education benefits under the Post 9/11 GI Bill would completely offset the undergraduate tuition charges at a New Jersey public institution of higher education. Consequently, State reimbursement will not be required for certain New Jersey National Guard members and there will be a reduction in the State expenditure required to support the program.

Section: Education

*Analyst: Osomo Thomas
Senior Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: David J. Rosen
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L. 1980, c.67 (C. 52:13B-6 et seq.).

SENATE, No. 3084

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 3, 2009

Sponsored by:
Senator JAMES BEACH
District 6 (Camden)

SYNOPSIS

Requires member of New Jersey National Guard to apply for all tuition benefits available through U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in order to qualify for tuition-free enrollment at a public institution of higher education.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



S3084 BEACH

2

1 AN ACT concerning tuition assistance for members of the New
2 Jersey National Guard and amending N.J.S.18A:62-24 and
3 N.J.S.18A:62-25.

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

7
8 1. N.J.S.18A:62-24 is amended to read as follows:

9 18A:62-24. a. Any member of the New Jersey National Guard
10 shall be permitted to attend regularly-scheduled courses at any
11 public institution of higher education in this State enumerated in
12 N.J.S.18A:62-1 and receive up to 16 credits per semester tuition-
13 free provided that:

14 (1) the member has completed Initial Active Duty Training and,
15 except as otherwise provided pursuant to subsection c. of this
16 section, is in good standing as an active member of the New Jersey
17 National Guard;

18 (2) the member has been accepted to pursue a course of
19 undergraduate study and is enrolled as an undergraduate student in
20 good standing at that institution or a course of graduate study and is
21 enrolled as a graduate student in good standing at that institution;
22 **[and]**

23 (3) the member has applied for all available State student grants
24 and scholarships and all available federal student grants and
25 scholarships for which the member is eligible; and

26 (4) the member has applied for all tuition benefits available
27 through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for which
28 the member is eligible.

29 b. The State shall reimburse a public institution of higher
30 education for the tuition cost of each National Guard member who
31 enrolls in the institution pursuant to the provisions of this section to
32 the extent that the tuition cost is not paid through tuition benefits
33 available to the member through the United States Department of
34 Veterans Affairs.

35 c. Any member of the New Jersey National Guard whose
36 enrollment in a public institution of higher education on a tuition-
37 free basis pursuant to subsection a. of this section is interrupted by a
38 deployment to active duty shall be permitted to receive the free
39 tuition benefit after discharge from service under conditions other
40 than dishonorable. In the event of a non-medical discharge or a
41 medical discharge that is not caused by an illness or injury related
42 to the performance of duties for the National Guard, eligibility for
43 the free tuition benefit shall begin from the date of discharge and
44 shall continue for one semester or a period of time equal to the
45 length of the deployment, whichever is longer. In the event of

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.

S3084 BEACH

3

1 medical discharge or medical retirement as a result of illness or
2 injury incurred in the combat theater, as a result of terrorist action,
3 or in the response to a natural disaster, eligibility for the free tuition
4 benefit shall begin from the date of discharge or retirement and
5 shall continue until completion of the degree program in which
6 enrolled or for five years, whichever occurs first.
7 (cf: P.L.2007, c.11, s.1)

8

9 2. N.J.S.18A:62-25 is amended to read as follows:

10 18A:62-25.Any child or surviving spouse of a member of the
11 New Jersey National Guard who heretofore completed Initial Active
12 Duty Training and was killed in the performance of his duties while
13 on active duty with the New Jersey National Guard, or who
14 hereafter completes Initial Active Duty Training and is killed in the
15 performance of his duties while a member of the New Jersey
16 National Guard, shall be permitted to attend regularly-scheduled
17 courses at any public institution of higher education in this State
18 enumerated in N.J.S.18A:62-1 and receive up to 16 credits per
19 semester tuition-free provided that:

20 a. the child or spouse has been accepted to pursue a course of
21 undergraduate study and is enrolled as an undergraduate student in
22 good standing at that institution or a course of graduate study and is
23 enrolled as a graduate student in good standing at that institution;

24 b. the child or spouse has applied for all available State student
25 grants and scholarships and all available federal student grants and
26 scholarships for which the child or spouse is eligible; **[and]**

27 c. the child or spouse has applied for all tuition benefits
28 available through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs
29 for which the child or spouse is eligible; and

30 d. available classroom space permits and tuition-paying
31 students constitute the minimum number required for the course.

32 (cf: P.L.2007, c.11, s.2)

33

34 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall be first
35 applicable to the 2009-2010 academic year.

36

37

38

STATEMENT

39

40 This bill provides that in order to qualify for tuition-free
41 enrollment at a public institution of higher education, a member of
42 the New Jersey National Guard must apply for all tuition benefits
43 available through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs
44 for which the member is eligible. The bill imposes a similar
45 requirement on the child or surviving spouse of a member of the
46 New Jersey National Guard who is eligible under current law for a
47 tuition waiver at a public institution if available space permits and
48 tuition-paying students constitute the minimum number required for

S3084 BEACH

4

- 1 the course. The bill's provisions would first apply to the 2009-2010
- 2 academic year.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 3084

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 7, 2009

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 3084 with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill provides that in order to qualify for tuition-free enrollment at a public institution of higher education, a member of the New Jersey National Guard must apply for all tuition benefits available through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for which the member is eligible. The bill imposes a similar requirement on the child or surviving spouse of a member of the New Jersey National Guard who is eligible under current law for a tuition waiver at a public institution if available space permits and tuition-paying students constitute the minimum number required for the course. The bill's provisions would first apply to the 2010-2011 academic year.

The committee amended the bill to provide that the first academic year that the bill will be applicable is 2010-2011 rather than 2009-2010.

STATEMENT TO
[First Reprint]
SENATE, No. 3084

with Senate Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Senator BEACH)

ADOPTED: JANUARY 7, 2010

These floor amendments:

1) limit the federal military tuition benefits for which a member of the New Jersey National Guard must apply as a condition of receiving State tuition benefits upon enrollment in a public institution of higher education to tuition benefits under the “Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008,” Pub.L. 110-52;

2) provide for a similar limit in the case of a child or surviving spouse of a National Guard member who is eligible under current law for a tuition waiver at a public institution of higher education if available classroom space permits and tuition paying students constitute the minimum number required for the course; and

3) provide that an application by a National Guard member for tuition benefits under the “Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008” will not be required if the member has elected a tuition benefit transfer as authorized under federal law.