

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:

Yes

VETO MESSAGE:

No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:

Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS:

No

HEARINGS:

No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:

No

RH/CL

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 ¹**service**¹ members ¹of the military¹, ¹amending P.L.1997,
3 c.377,¹ 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:

8
9 ¹1. 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:

¹Senate 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.¹

17 (cf: P.L.1997, c. 377, s.1)

18

19 ¹~~1.~~ 2. (New section)¹ a. As used in this section:

20 "Service member" means an individual who is serving ¹~~1~~
21 active duty as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, ~~1~~
22 as a member of¹ a Reserve component ¹~~1~~
23 Forces of the United States¹, or ¹~~1~~
24 as a member of¹ the National Guard
25 , or on active duty as a member of the Armed Forces of the United
26 States¹.

26 "Veteran" means an individual who served ¹~~1~~
27 the Armed Forces of the United States, ~~1~~
28 as a member of¹ a Reserve
29 component ¹~~1~~
30 Forces of the United States¹, or
31 as a member of¹ the National Guard, ¹~~1~~
32 or on active duty in the Armed
33 Forces of the United States,¹ and who was honorably discharged or
34 released under honorable circumstances from active service.

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

37 c. ¹~~1~~
38 Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, each
39 public institution of higher education shall establish policies and
40 procedures to permit the late registration of a student who is a
41 veteran or a service member upon the student's return from
42 deployment, ¹~~1~~
43 mobilization,¹ reassignment, or other military
44 obligation. The institution shall not charge a late fee or similar
45 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 ¹~~2.~~ 3.¹ This act shall take effect immediately and shall first
2 apply to the first full academic year following the date of
3 enactment.

4

5

6

7

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.

CHAPTER 174

AN ACT concerning access to higher education for veterans and members of the military, amending P.L.1997, c.377, and supplementing chapter 62 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

1. Section 1 of P.L.1997, c.377 (C.18A:62-4.2) is amended to read as follows:

C.18A:62-4.2 Options for student at public institution of higher education unable to complete course due to military service.

1. a. A student at a New Jersey public institution of higher education who is unable to complete a course due to deployment, mobilization, reassignment, or other military obligation as a service member shall be entitled to the options set forth in this section with respect to the student's grade for the course.

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

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

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

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

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

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

f. A student who chooses to accept a grade of pass or fail may, within one year after returning to the New Jersey public institution of higher education, receive a letter grade for the course by completing the work required for the course, in which case the letter grade shall replace the pass or fail grade as the student's grade for the course.

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

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

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

j. As used in this section, "service member" means an individual who is serving as a member of a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States, or as a member of the National Guard, or on active duty as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States.

C.18A:62-4.3c Definitions; certain institutions to establish policies, procedures.

2. a. As used in this section:

"Service member" means an individual who is serving as a member of a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States, or as a member of the National Guard, or on active duty as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States.

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

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

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

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

Approved July 22, 2021.

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.

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

7
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.

31

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

34

35

36

STATEMENT

37

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.

ASSEMBLY MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]
SENATE, No. 278

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 8, 2020

The Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 278 (1R).

New Jersey law currently provides that a student at a public institution of higher education who is unable to complete a course due to being called to partial or full mobilization for State or federal active duty as a member of the National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States is entitled to certain options with respect to the student's grade for the course, and for the refund of tuition, fees, and room and board. This bill broadens the scope of the law to benefit a wider military community that includes service members who are unable to complete a course due to deployment, mobilization, reassignment, or other military obligation.

Under the bill, "service member" means an individual who is serving on active duty as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, or as a member of a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States or the National Guard. A "veteran" is defined as an individual who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States, or who served as a member of a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States or the National Guard, and who was honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active service.

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

Senate Bill No. 278 (1R) is identical to Assembly Bill No. 3807 of 2020-2021.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 278

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 26, 2020

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 278 (1R).

New Jersey law currently provides that a student at a public institution of higher education who is unable to complete a course due to being called to partial or full mobilization for State or federal active duty as a member of the National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States is entitled to certain options with respect to the student's grade for the course, and for the refund of tuition, fees, and room and board. This bill broadens the scope of the law to benefit a wider military community that includes service members who are unable to complete a course due to deployment, mobilization, reassignment, or other military obligation.

Under the bill, "service member" means an individual who is serving on active duty as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, or as a member of a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States or the National Guard. A "veteran" is defined as an individual who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States, or who served as a member of a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States or the National Guard, and who was honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active service.

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

As reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 278 (1R) is identical to Assembly Bill No. 3807, which also was reported by the committee on this date.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that this bill would result in a revenue decrease to public institutions of higher

education since those institutions would provide certain refunds to a broader set of students who are unable to complete a course due to deployment, mobilization, reassignment, or other military obligation as a service member.

The bill may also result in a margin tuition revenue increase to public institutions of higher education due to the bill's provision that requires the institutions to permit service members or veterans to register late for courses upon those students' return from their military obligations. A public institution would experience such a revenue increase to the extent that the bill would cause certain veterans or service members, who otherwise would not have attended the institution to enroll in the institution.

SENATE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 278

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 30, 2020

The Senate Higher Education Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 278 with committee amendments.

P.L.1997, c.377 (C.18A:62-4.2) currently provides that a student at a public institution of higher education who is unable to complete a course due to being called to partial or full mobilization for State or federal active duty as a member of the National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States is entitled to certain options with respect to the student's grade for the course, and for the refund of tuition, fees, and room and board. As amended, this bill broadens the scope of the law to benefit a wider military community that includes service members who are unable to complete a course due to deployment, mobilization, reassignment, or other military obligation.

Under the bill, "service member" means an individual who is serving on active duty as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, or as a member of a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States or the National Guard. A "veteran" is defined as an individual who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States, or who served as a member of a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States or the National Guard, and who was honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active service.

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

The committee amended the bill to:

- apply the provisions of P.L.1997, c.377 (C.18A:62-4.2) to a wider military community that includes service members who are unable to complete a course due to deployment, mobilization, reassignment, or other military obligation;
- provide a definition of "service member" and "veteran;" and
- update the title to reflect the amended bill.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2020-2021 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 278

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 13, 2020

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 278 (1R).

New Jersey law, P.L.1997, c.377 (C.18A:62-4.2), currently provides that a student at a public institution of higher education who is unable to complete a course due to being called to partial or full mobilization for State or federal active duty as a member of the National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States is entitled to certain options with respect to the student's grade for the course, and for the refund of tuition, fees, and room and board. This bill broadens the scope of the law to benefit a wider military community that includes service members who are unable to complete a course due to deployment, mobilization, reassignment, or other military obligation.

Under the bill, "service member" means an individual who is serving on active duty as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, or as a member of a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States or the National Guard. A "veteran" is defined as an individual who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States, or who served as a member of a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States or the National Guard, and who was honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active service.

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

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services concludes that this bill would result in a revenue decrease to public institutions of higher education since those institutions would provide certain refunds to a broader set of students who are unable to complete a course due to deployment,

mobilization, reassignment, or other military obligation as a service member.

The bill may also result in a marginal tuition revenue increase to public institutions of higher education due to the bill's provision that requires the institutions to permit service members or veterans to register late for courses upon those students' return from their military obligations. A public institution would experience such a revenue increase to the extent that the bill would cause certain veterans or service members, who otherwise would not have attended the institution, to enroll in the institution.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 278

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

DATED: FEBRUARY 18, 2020

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Establishes certain rights for students with military obligations attending public institutions of higher education and permits late registration for students with military obligations.
- Type of Impact:** Annual revenue increases and decreases to public institutions of higher education.
- Agencies Affected:** Public Institutions of Higher Education.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Annual</u>
Net Revenue Impact to Public Institutions of Higher Education	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that this bill would result in a revenue decrease to public institutions of higher education since those institutions would provide certain refunds to a broader set of students who are unable to complete a course due to deployment, mobilization, reassignment, or other military obligation as a service member.
- The bill may also result in a marginal tuition revenue increase to public institutions of higher education due to the bill's provision that requires the institutions to permit service members or veterans to register late for courses upon those students' return from their military obligations. A public institution would experience such a revenue increase to the extent that the bill would cause certain veterans or service members, who otherwise would not have attended the institution, to enroll in the institution.

BILL DESCRIPTION

Current state law provides that a student at a public institution of higher education who is unable to complete a course due to being called to partial or full mobilization for State or federal active duty as a member of the National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of

the United States is entitled to certain options with respect to the student's grade for the course, and for the refund of tuition, fees, and room and board. This bill would broaden the scope of the law to benefit a wider military community that includes service members who are unable to complete a course due to deployment, mobilization, reassignment, or other military obligation.

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

Under the bill, "service member" means an individual who is serving on active duty as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, or as a member of a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States or the National Guard. A "veteran" is defined as an individual who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States, or who served as a member of a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States or the National Guard, and who was honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active service.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS concludes that this bill would result in a revenue decrease to public institutions of higher education in the State since those institutions would have to provide certain refunds to a broader set of students who are unable to complete a course due to deployment, mobilization, reassignment, or other military obligation as a service member. Under current law, a student who is unable to complete a course due to being called to partial or full mobilization for State or federal active duty as a member of the National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States is entitled to a refund of tuition, fees, and room and board.

The bill may also result in a marginal tuition revenue increase to public institutions of higher education due to the bill's provision that requires the institutions to permit service members or veterans to register late for courses upon those students' return from their military obligations. A public institution would experience such a revenue increase to the extent that the bill would cause certain veterans or service members, who otherwise would not have attended the institution, to enroll in the institution.

While the OLS does not have sufficient information to determine the number of veterans and service members who may be affected by the bill, the office notes that, in the 2017-2018 academic year, there were approximately 5,800 students at public institutions of higher education in New Jersey who received benefits under the federal Post-9/11 GI Bill and about 3,400 students who received benefits under the federal Department of Defense Tuition Assistance Program. These numbers include eligible spouses or dependents of veteran or service member beneficiaries, who would not be subject to benefits provided by the bill. The OLS is not able to determine the portion of benefit recipients who are spouses or dependents.

Section: Education

*Analyst: Christopher Myles
Assistant Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: Frank W. Haines III
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

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

ASSEMBLY, No. 3807

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 16, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman STERLEY S. STANLEY

District 18 (Middlesex)

Assemblyman WAYNE P. DEANGELO

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblyman JOE DANIELSEN

District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)

Co-Sponsored by:

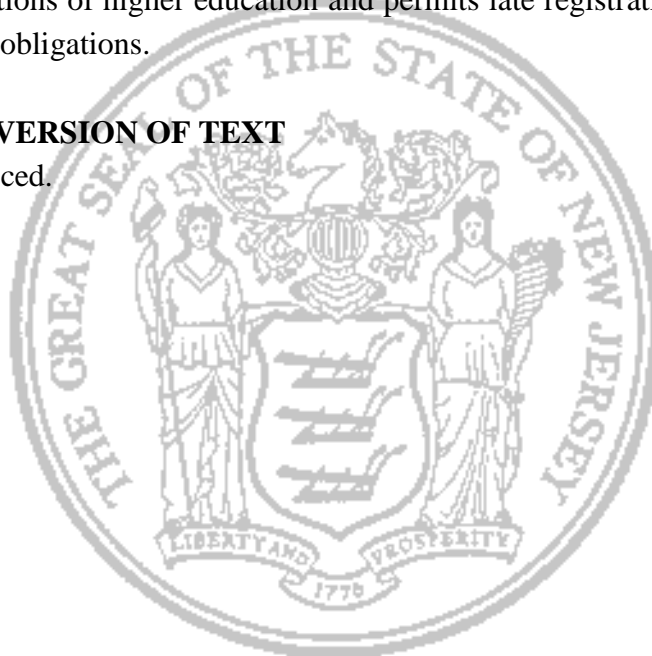
Assemblyman Dancer, Assemblywomen Murphy, DiMaso, Assemblymen Bergen, Moen, Assemblywoman Mosquera, Assemblyman Houghtaling, Assemblywoman Downey, Assemblymen Space, Wirths and Assemblywoman Swain

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/20/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning access to higher education for veterans and
2 members of the military, amending P.L.1997, c.377, and
3 supplementing chapter 62 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
4 Statutes.

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

8
9 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
39 the work required for the course, in which case the letter grade shall
40 replace the pass or fail grade as the student's grade for the course.

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

43 h. A student who has paid amounts for room, board or fees shall,
44 except as provided in subsection g. of this section, receive a refund of
45 that portion of those amounts attributable to the time period during

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 which the student did not use the services for which payment was
2 made.

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

6 j. As used in this section, "service member" means an individual
7 who is serving as a member of a Reserve component of the Armed
8 Forces of the United States, or as a member of the National Guard, or
9 on active duty as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States.
10 (cf: P.L.1997, c.377, s.1)

11

12 2. (New section) a. As used in this section:

13 "Service member" means an individual who is serving as a
14 member of a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United
15 States, or as a member of the National Guard , or on active duty as a
16 member of the Armed Forces of the United States.

17 "Veteran" means an individual who served as a member of a
18 Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States, or as a
19 member of the National Guard, or on active duty in the Armed Forces
20 of the United States, and who was honorably discharged or released
21 under honorable circumstances from active service.

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

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

32

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

35

36

37

STATEMENT

38

39 P.L.1997, c.377 (C.18A:62-4.2) currently provides that a student
40 at a public institution of higher education who is unable to complete
41 a course due to being called to partial or full mobilization for State
42 or federal active duty as a member of the National Guard or a
43 Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States is
44 entitled to certain options with respect to the student's grade for the
45 course, and for the refund of tuition, fees, and room and board. As
46 amended, this bill broadens the scope of the law to benefit a wider
47 military community that includes service members who are unable

A3807 STANLEY, DEANGELO

4

1 to complete a course due to deployment, mobilization,
2 reassignment, or other military obligation.

3 Under the bill, “service member” means an individual who is
4 serving on active duty as a member of the Armed Forces of the United
5 States, or as a member of a Reserve component of the Armed Forces
6 of the United States or the National Guard. A “veteran” is defined as
7 an individual who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the
8 United States, or who served as a member of a Reserve component of
9 the Armed Forces of the United States or the National Guard, and who
10 was honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances
11 from active service.

12 The bill also directs each public institution of higher education
13 to establish policies and procedures to permit the late registration of
14 a student who is a veteran or a service member upon the student’s
15 return from deployment, mobilization, reassignment, or other
16 military obligation. Under the bill, the institution cannot charge a
17 late fee or similar penalty on a registration submitted pursuant to
18 the bill’s provisions.

ASSEMBLY MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3807

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 8, 2020

The Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 3807.

New Jersey law currently provides that a student at a public institution of higher education who is unable to complete a course due to being called to partial or full mobilization for State or federal active duty as a member of the National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States is entitled to certain options with respect to the student's grade for the course, and for the refund of tuition, fees, and room and board. This bill broadens the scope of the law to benefit a wider military community that includes service members who are unable to complete a course due to deployment, mobilization, reassignment, or other military obligation.

Under the bill, "service member" means an individual who is serving on active duty as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, or as a member of a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States or the National Guard. A "veteran" is defined as an individual who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States, or who served as a member of a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States or the National Guard, and who was honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active service.

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

Assembly Bill No. 3807 is identical to Senate Bill No. 278 (1R) of 2020-2021.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3807

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 26, 2020

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 3807.

New Jersey law currently provides that a student at a public institution of higher education who is unable to complete a course due to being called to partial or full mobilization for State or federal active duty as a member of the National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States is entitled to certain options with respect to the student's grade for the course, and for the refund of tuition, fees, and room and board. This bill broadens the scope of the law to benefit a wider military community that includes service members who are unable to complete a course due to deployment, mobilization, reassignment, or other military obligation.

Under the bill, "service member" means an individual who is serving on active duty as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, or as a member of a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States or the National Guard. A "veteran" is defined as an individual who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States, or who served as a member of a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States or the National Guard, and who was honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active service.

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

As reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 3807 is identical to Senate Bill No. 278 (1R), which also was reported by the committee on this date.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that this bill would result in a revenue decrease to public institutions of higher education since those institutions would provide certain refunds to a

broader set of students who are unable to complete a course due to deployment, mobilization, reassignment, or other military obligation as a service member.

The bill may also result in a margin tuition revenue increase to public institutions of higher education due to the bill's provision that requires the institutions to permit service members or veterans to register late for courses upon those students' return from their military obligations. A public institution would experience such a revenue increase to the extent that the bill would cause certain veterans or service members, who otherwise would not have attended the institution to enroll in the institution.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
ASSEMBLY, No. 3807
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

DATED: OCTOBER 27, 2020

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Establishes certain rights for students with military obligations attending public institutions of higher education and permits late registration for students with military obligations.
- Type of Impact:** Annual revenue increases and decreases to public institutions of higher education.
- Agencies Affected:** Public Institutions of Higher Education.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Annual</u>
Net Revenue Impact to Public Institutions of Higher Education	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that this bill would result in a revenue decrease to public institutions of higher education since those institutions would provide certain refunds to a broader set of students who are unable to complete a course due to deployment, mobilization, reassignment, or other military obligation as a service member.
- The bill may also result in a marginal tuition revenue increase to public institutions of higher education due to the bill's provision that requires the institutions to permit service members or veterans to register late for courses upon those students' return from their military obligations. A public institution would experience such a revenue increase to the extent that the bill would cause certain veterans or service members, who otherwise would not have attended the institution, to enroll in the institution.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill would broaden the scope of current State law, which provides that a student at a public institution of higher education who is unable to complete a course due to being called to partial or full mobilization for State or federal active duty as a member of the National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States is entitled to certain options with respect to

the student's grade for the course, and for the refund of tuition, fees, and room and board. The bill would amend the law to instead include service members who are unable to complete a course due to deployment, mobilization, reassignment, or other military obligation.

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

Under the bill, "service member" means an individual who is serving on active duty as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, or as a member of a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States or the National Guard. A "veteran" is defined as an individual who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States, or who served as a member of a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States or the National Guard, and who was honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active service.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS concludes that this bill would result in a revenue decrease to public institutions of higher education in the State since those institutions would have to provide certain refunds to a broader set of students who are unable to complete a course due to deployment, mobilization, reassignment, or other military obligation as a service member. Under current law, a student who is unable to complete a course due to being called to partial or full mobilization for State or federal active duty as a member of the National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States is entitled to a refund of tuition, fees, and room and board.

The bill may also result in a marginal tuition revenue increase to public institutions of higher education due to the bill's provision that requires the institutions to permit service members or veterans to register late for courses upon those students' return from their military obligations. A public institution would experience such a revenue increase to the extent that the bill would cause certain veterans or service members, who otherwise would not have attended the institution, to enroll in the institution.

While the OLS does not have sufficient information to determine the number of veterans and service members who may be affected by the bill, the office notes that, in the 2018-2019 academic year, there were approximately 5,200 students at public institutions of higher education in New Jersey who received benefits under the federal Post-9/11 GI Bill and about 2,900 students who received benefits under the federal Department of Defense Tuition Assistance Program. In calendar year 2019, there were approximately 7,100 GI Bill students at public institutions of higher education in the State. These numbers may include eligible spouses or dependents of veteran or service member beneficiaries, who would not be subject to benefits provided by the bill. The OLS is not able to determine the portion of benefit recipients who are spouses or dependents.

Section: Education

*Analyst: Christopher Myles
Associate Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: Frank W. Haines III
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

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

Governor Murphy Signs Legislation Supporting Veterans and Servicemembers

07/22/2021

Legislative Package Supports Veterans Seeking Higher Education, Expands Access to Disabled Veterans' Property Tax Exemption, and Establishes an Annual Grant Program for Institutions Offering Substantial Veterans Services

TRENTON – Governor Murphy today signed legislation (S-278, S-956, and S-961) which supports New Jersey veterans and servicemembers and grants them easier access to higher education, expands access to the disabled veterans' property tax exemption, and establishes an annual grant program within the Troops to College Program to recognize institutions of higher education that offer extensive veteran programs and services.

“Our veterans and servicemembers have put their lives on the line for their state and for their country,” **said Governor Murphy**. “The least we can do for them is to make their lives easier by expanding access to higher education, broadening eligibility for the disabled veterans' property tax exemption, and encouraging higher education institutions to provide needed services. This legislation will doubtlessly help our veterans and servicemembers in their civilian lives and recognize their service properly.”

“This trio of bills signed by the Governor affirms New Jersey's commitment to our Veterans,” **said Brigadier General Lisa J. Hou, D.O., The Adjutant General and Commissioner of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs**. “One bill will provide grants to institutions of higher education that assist veterans with programs and services. Tenant shareholders in cooperatives and mutual housing corporations can finally use the property tax exemption that homeowners have used for years. Uniformed service members attending public colleges now have additional rights, such as extended registration time each semester, so they can continue their education while fulfilling their military obligations.”

S-278 broadens the scope of existing law to benefit a wider military community that includes servicemembers who are unable to complete a course due to deployment, mobilization, reassignment, or other military obligation. The bill directs each public institution of higher education to establish policies and procedures to refund course tuition and fees and permit the late registration of students who are veterans or servicemembers affected by deployment, mobilization, reassignment, or other military obligation. Under the bill, the institution cannot charge a late fee or similar penalty on a registration submitted pursuant to the bill's provisions.

Primary sponsors for S-278 include Senators Tom Kean, Jr. and Sandra Cunningham, and Assemblymembers Sterley Stanley, Wayne DeAngelo, and Joseph Daniels.

“New Jersey is becoming more accommodating to the brave men and women who are willing to put their lives on the line to protect our freedoms,” **said Senator Tom Kean, Jr.** “It is challenging enough to work and attend classes, but for those in the military, juggling schedules and managing deadlines is even more cumbersome. The new law will ease some of the burden of earning college credits for members of the military by offering them the flexibility when registering for classes or when military obligations conflict with course schedules.”

“Our active duty military have already given so much, and it is only right we provide them the flexibility they need to pursue a degree,” **said Senator Sandra Cunningham**. “This law will provide for late registration and allow service members to waive course fees if called to duty, making earning a degree

that much more accessible for those in our armed forces.”

“Our military members have to put their plans on hold when they are called to duty in service of this country,” **said Assemblyman Sterley Stanley**. “We should honor their personal sacrifice by making sure the education they received before leaving to fulfill their military responsibilities was not in vain, by allowing them to receive an applicable grade or pick up where they left off upon their return.”

“Students who cannot complete a semester because they have an unexpected, simultaneous obligation to the military deserve the opportunity to earn the educational credits they were working towards before being called away,” **said Assemblyman Wayne DeAngelo**. “It is only fair we allow these service members to have their hard work recognized and any educational fees for services they did not actually get to use be returned to them by their university.”

“This law will greatly benefit military members who are seeking a degree from one of New Jersey’s schools,” **said Assemblyman Joseph Danielsen**. “Everyone deserves the opportunity to work towards achieving a higher education, which is why we must accommodate the unique needs of students who may have their semester interrupted in order to serve in our armed forces.”

S-956 exempts from property taxes totally and permanently disabled veterans and their surviving spouses who occupy a unit in a cooperative or mutual housing corporation in which they are tenant shareholders. The bill requires the Division of Taxation to promulgate the necessary implementing regulations which will include provisions that would require cooperatives and mutual housing corporations to pass the full amount of the property tax exemption on to the tenant shareholder who qualified for the benefit.

Primary sponsors for S-956 include Senators Christopher Connors and Brian Stack, and Assemblymembers DiAnne Gove, Brian Rumpf, John Armato, and Vincent Mazzeo.

“For too long, certain disabled veterans were wrongly denied significant property tax relief they deserved due a legal technicality. That changes with the enactment of this bill that advanced with strong bipartisan support,” **said Senator Christopher Connors, Assemblyman Brian Rumpf, and Assemblywoman DiAnne Gove, in a joint statement**.

“By extending the disabled veteran’s property tax exemption to disabled veterans and their surviving spouses that are residents of cooperatives or mutual housing corporations, we can ensure that more of our veterans can reap this benefit,” **said Senator Brian Stack**. “Our veterans put their lives on the line to protect our country, and this extension will be a valuable aid for many more living within our state.”

“Cooperative and mutual housing corporations offer a less expensive alternative to homeownership than being the sole owner of a house, condo or apartment. With many disabled veterans facing significant financial challenges, affordable housing is a critical need that co-ops and mutual housing groups can fill,” **said Assemblymen John Armato and Vincent Mazzeo in a joint statement**. “Since residents of these jointly-owned buildings must pay a share of the property tax, it’s only fair disabled veterans in these residences receive the same tax exemption as fellow veterans living in more traditional homes.”

S-961 creates an annual grant program within the Troops to College Program. The grant program will be developed by the Secretary of Higher Education in consultation with the Department of Military and Veterans’ Affairs. The Secretary will annually select up to three institutions of higher education, public or private, to receive a \$150,000 Troops to College Grant. In order to receive a grant, an institution must demonstrate that it is offering a comprehensive array of services, benefits, and programs to veterans attending the institution.

Primary sponsors for S-961 include Senators Troy Singleton and Nilsa Cruz-Perez, and Assemblymembers John Armato, Andrew Zwicker, and Anthony Verrelli.

“The benefits of this law are two-fold. It recognizes and supports those institutions of higher education in New Jersey that are working to make a college education more accessible to our veterans and most importantly it expands the services they are able to provide,” **said Senator Nilsa Cruz-Perez.** “We owe these men and women a great debt of gratitude for their service to our nation. Expanding their education opportunities is good for them, good for our state and good for our society.”

“Since the Post-9/11 GI Bill was enacted in 2008, New Jersey’s premier colleges and universities have been doing a great job helping our veterans obtain a higher education, finish their degree programs, find employment upon graduation, and most importantly, transition into civilian life again. Yet, there is always more we can do,” **said Senator Troy Singleton.** “This law will expand upon the existing Troops to College Grant Program to further promote and bolster educational opportunities for the men and women who served our country honorably in the Armed Forces.”

“The transition from military service to civilian life can be challenging for many veterans. Higher education can help provide a path forward for veterans as they pursue careers after they leave the service. However, it’s critical for colleges and universities to be equipped with essential services to address the unique needs of veterans,” **said Assemblymen John Armato, Andrew Zwicker and Anthony Verrelli in a joint statement.** “This law will strengthen the efforts of colleges participating in the Troops to College Program, including orientation programs, faculty training, veterans benefit counseling, adaptive learning technologies, and career planning services. This is another small way we can express our gratitude and appreciation for the service of New Jersey’s brave soldiers.”

This Week in NJ: July 23rd, 2021

07/23/2021



Governor Murphy Signs Legislation to Provide \$135 Million in Small Business Relief

Governor Murphy signed legislation (S-3982) providing additional aid to small businesses as New Jersey continues to provide support to small businesses as they recover from the pandemic. The bill provides \$135 million to small businesses throughout the state and will be administered by the Economic Development Authority as part of its Phase IV Emergency Grant Program and NJ Community Stage Relief Grant Program.

“As small businesses throughout New Jersey continue to struggle from the economic aftermath of COVID-19, we remain committed to providing them with the resources they need to recover,” **said Governor Murphy.**

“Together with our partners at the federal level, the EDA and other departments have provided more than three quarters of a billion dollars to our small business community as we emerge from the pandemic stronger and more resilient.”

[READ MORE](#)

Governor Murphy Signs Package of Bills Advancing New Jersey as National Leader in Lead Poisoning Prevention

Governor Phil Murphy reaffirmed his commitment to address lead exposure in New Jersey and its harmful effects on public health and child development by signing a package of bills aimed protecting New Jersey's families from lead poisoning.



“In October of 2019, I put forth a multifaceted statewide plan to protect New Jersey’s children and families from the dangers of lead, and today, we are taking a significant step forward in our strategy to reduce lead exposure in our homes,” **said Governor Murphy.** “Modernizing our aging water infrastructure with new lead services lines is critical in ensuring safe drinking water flows through our communities. In addition to replacing service lines, we must also go further to protect those in older homes and apartments where door jambs and window sashes may be coated in decades of layers of lead-based paints, creating fine particulates that are unknowingly inhaled and ingested. Today, we are taking the most aggressive action in the nation to reduce lead-based paint exposure in our homes and communities, which is a critical victory for public health and environmental justice, and advances New Jersey as a national leader in lead poisoning prevention.”

[READ MORE](#)

Governor Murphy Signs Legislation Supporting Veterans and Servicemembers

Governor Murphy signed legislation (S-278, S-956, and S-961) which supports New Jersey veterans and servicemembers and grants them easier access to higher education, expands access to the disabled veterans’ property tax exemption, and establishes an annual grant program within the Troops to College Program to recognize institutions of higher education that offer extensive veteran programs and services.

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Governor Murphy Signs Legislation to Expand Civics Instruction in Schools

Governor Phil Murphy signed legislation (S854) requiring civics instruction at the middle school level. Currently, New Jersey is one of a minority of states which does not require civics instruction for middle school students.

“By deepening civics instruction in middle school and high school, we are giving students the tools they need to be more engaged and informed citizens,” **said Governor Murphy**. “An understanding of civics strengthens our democracy by ensuring an understanding of the role that everyone plays in the future of their community, our state, and our nation. I am proud to sign this bill into law and honor Laura Wooten’s incredible civic legacy.”

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Governor Murphy and Lieutenant Governor Oliver Announce Appointment of State Senator Chris A. Brown, Esq. to the Department of Community Affairs' Division of Local Government Services

Governor Phil Murphy and Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver announced that State Senator Chris A. Brown, Esq. will join the Department of Community Affairs' Division of Local Government Services as the Senior Advisor for Atlantic City Affairs, a newly created role in the Department. In this position, Brown will spearhead State initiatives in Atlantic City, including efforts to improve public safety, diversify the economy and create jobs, and improve social services.



“Chris is deeply committed to improving the lives of those who call Atlantic City home, and he will be a tremendous asset for the Administration as we further strengthen the Atlantic City economy and improve quality of life,” **said Governor Murphy.** “I look forward to working together to address issues like economic growth and public safety. With Chris in this new role, and with Sheila at the helm of DCA, the future of Atlantic City has never looked brighter.”

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