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**GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:** Yes

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**REPORTS:** No

**HEARINGS:** No

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:** No

CL/JA

P.L. 2023, CHAPTER 34, *approved April 5, 2023*  
Senate, No. 3724 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning student financial assistance, amending  
2 N.J.S.18A:71B-20, **1** **[and]**<sup>1</sup> supplementing chapter 71B of Title  
3 18A of the New Jersey Statutes<sup>1</sup>, and making an appropriation<sup>1</sup>.  
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:71B-20 is amended to read as follows:  
9 18A:71B-20. a. A State tuition aid grant shall be awarded  
10 annually to each eligible, qualified full-time undergraduate student  
11 enrolled in a curriculum leading to a degree or certificate in an  
12 eligible institution, or in an institution of higher education in  
13 another state, provided that state permits its residents to utilize its  
14 state student financial assistance grants in New Jersey institutions  
15 of higher education through reciprocity agreements approved by the  
16 authority. In no event shall a State tuition aid grant be utilized at an  
17 out-of-State institution which is not licensed by that state and  
18 accredited by a regional accrediting association recognized by a  
19 national accrediting organization.

20 b. To each New Jersey resident enrolled as a full-time student,  
21 except as otherwise provided in subsection d. of this section, and  
22 meeting the other requirements for eligibility under this chapter, the  
23 State shall grant an amount as provided in N.J.S.18A:71B-21. A  
24 student shall not be eligible for a grant unless the application is in a  
25 form satisfactory to the authority. A student shall not be eligible for  
26 grants for more than four and one-half academic years, unless the  
27 recipient is enrolled in an undergraduate program regularly  
28 requiring five academic years for completion, in which case the  
29 authority shall permit five and one-half years of eligibility.  
30 Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, a student receiving aid  
31 under the provisions of P.L.1968, c.142 (C.18A:71-28 et seq.) shall  
32 be entitled to a sixth year of eligibility. Notwithstanding the  
33 foregoing provisions, a county college student who transfers to a  
34 four- year institution, or any student who is required to pursue 18 or  
35 more credit hours in a remedial or developmental curriculum, as  
36 defined by regulations adopted by the authority, is entitled to an  
37 additional half year of eligibility. For the purpose of this article, a  
38 remedial curriculum shall include only noncredit courses in which a  
39 student is directed to enroll by the institution. Eligibility for tuition  
40 aid grants may be extended to part-time students through

**EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

**Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:**

<sup>1</sup>Senate SBA committee amendments adopted March 16, 2023.

1 regulations developed by the authority if funds are separately  
2 appropriated for this purpose. A student shall not be eligible for  
3 grants unless the student maintains such minimum standards of  
4 academic performance as are required by the institution of  
5 enrollment. A student who is enrolled in a course leading to a  
6 degree in theology or divinity shall not be eligible for a tuition aid  
7 grant.

8 c. A person shall not be awarded a State tuition aid grant unless  
9 that person:

10 (1) satisfies the residency and other requirements provided in  
11 article 1 of this part;

12 (2) has applied for State tuition aid and has been determined by  
13 the authority to be eligible for the tuition aid;

14 (3) has demonstrated financial need for the tuition aid as  
15 determined by and in accordance with standards to be established  
16 by the authority; and

17 (4) maintains satisfactory academic progress in accordance with  
18 standards established by the authority.

19 d. Eligibility criteria for summer tuition aid grants awarded  
20 pursuant to section 2 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
21 Legislature as this bill) shall conform to the requirements of this  
22 section and shall include the following additional eligibility criteria:

23 (1) the student is enrolled in six or more credit hours in the  
24 summer term;

25 (2) the courses for which the summer tuition aid grant is to be  
26 applied are in the same undergraduate program at the same  
27 institution in which the student was enrolled during the fall and  
28 spring semesters of the preceding academic year; and

29 (3) the courses for which the summer tuition aid grant is to be  
30 applied may be credited toward the student's graduation or  
31 academic major requirements.

32 (cf: N.J.S.18A:71B-20)

33

34 2. (New section) a. <sup>1</sup>**【The】** For the summer 2023 semester  
35 only, the<sup>1</sup> authority shall award summer tuition aid grants for  
36 eligible students pursuant to N.J.S.18A:71B-20. A summer tuition  
37 aid grant shall be applied toward the tuition costs outside of the  
38 academic year, as defined in N.J.S.18A:71B-4. The receipt of a  
39 summer tuition aid grant shall not: (1) reduce the amount of a  
40 tuition aid grant awarded to the student during the academic year;  
41 (2) be included when determining the student's maximum tuition  
42 aid grant awards pursuant to subsection b. of this section; or (3)  
43 otherwise adversely affect the student's eligibility for an award  
44 under this chapter.

45 b. A summer tuition aid grant shall be prorated against the full-  
46 time tuition aid grant awarded in the preceding semester as follows:  
47 an eligible student enrolled with six to eight credits shall receive  
48 one-half of the value of a full-time award, and an eligible student

1 enrolled with nine to 11 credits shall receive three-quarters of a full-  
2 time award.

3 c. <sup>1</sup>~~1~~ [A student shall not be eligible for more than four summer  
4 tuition aid grants.

5 d. (1)<sup>1</sup> Summer tuition aid grants awarded pursuant to this  
6 section shall be funded by <sup>1</sup>the appropriation made to the authority  
7 pursuant to section 3 of P.L. \_\_\_\_\_, c. (C. \_\_\_\_\_) (pending before the  
8 Legislature as this bill) and any additional amounts as may be  
9 required from the unexpended balance of funds previously awarded  
10 for tuition aid grants as of the effective date of  
11 P.L. \_\_\_\_\_, c. (C. \_\_\_\_\_) (pending before the Legislature as this  
12 bill). The Legislature may award funds in addition to those  
13 appropriated to the authority pursuant to section 3 of P.L. \_\_\_\_\_, c.  
14 (C. \_\_\_\_\_) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) by<sup>1</sup> a separate  
15 line item.

16 <sup>1</sup>~~1~~ [(2) The amount of funds appropriated for full-time tuition aid  
17 grants shall not be reduced or diverted to implement the provisions  
18 of this act.

19 (3) The amount of funds appropriated for part-time tuition aid  
20 grants shall not be reduced or diverted to implement the provisions  
21 of this act.]<sup>1</sup>

22  
23 <sup>1</sup>3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Higher  
24 Education Student Assistance Authority the sum of \$1,000 for the  
25 purpose of awarding summer tuition aid grants in the summer of  
26 2023 pursuant to the provisions of P.L. \_\_\_\_\_, c. (C. \_\_\_\_\_) (pending  
27 before the Legislature as this bill).<sup>1</sup>

28  
29 <sup>1</sup>~~3.~~ 4.<sup>1</sup> This act shall take effect immediately.

30  
31  
32 \_\_\_\_\_  
33  
34 Authorizes Higher Education Student Assistance Authority to  
35 award summer tuition aid grants in summer of 2023; appropriates  
36 \$1,000.

# SENATE, No. 3724

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 13, 2023

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator M. TERESA RUIZ**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**Senator PAUL A. SARLO**

**District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Diegnan and Singer**

**SYNOPSIS**

Authorizes Higher Education Student Assistance Authority to award summer tuition aid grants.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/16/2023)**

1 AN ACT concerning student financial assistance, amending  
2 N.J.S.18A:71B-20, and supplementing chapter 71B of Title 18A  
3 of 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. N.J.S.18A:71B-20 is amended to read as follows:

9 18A:71B-20. a. A State tuition aid grant shall be awarded  
10 annually to each eligible, qualified full-time undergraduate student  
11 enrolled in a curriculum leading to a degree or certificate in an  
12 eligible institution, or in an institution of higher education in  
13 another state, provided that state permits its residents to utilize its  
14 state student financial assistance grants in New Jersey institutions  
15 of higher education through reciprocity agreements approved by the  
16 authority. In no event shall a State tuition aid grant be utilized at an  
17 out-of-State institution which is not licensed by that state and  
18 accredited by a regional accrediting association recognized by a  
19 national accrediting organization.

20 b. To each New Jersey resident enrolled as a full-time student,  
21 except as otherwise provided in subsection d. of this section, and  
22 meeting the other requirements for eligibility under this chapter, the  
23 State shall grant an amount as provided in N.J.S.18A:71B-21. A  
24 student shall not be eligible for a grant unless the application is in a  
25 form satisfactory to the authority. A student shall not be eligible for  
26 grants for more than four and one-half academic years, unless the  
27 recipient is enrolled in an undergraduate program regularly  
28 requiring five academic years for completion, in which case the  
29 authority shall permit five and one-half years of eligibility.  
30 Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, a student receiving aid  
31 under the provisions of P.L.1968, c.142 (C.18A:71-28 et seq.) shall  
32 be entitled to a sixth year of eligibility. Notwithstanding the  
33 foregoing provisions, a county college student who transfers to a  
34 four- year institution, or any student who is required to pursue 18 or  
35 more credit hours in a remedial or developmental curriculum, as  
36 defined by regulations adopted by the authority, is entitled to an  
37 additional half year of eligibility. For the purpose of this article, a  
38 remedial curriculum shall include only noncredit courses in which a  
39 student is directed to enroll by the institution. Eligibility for tuition  
40 aid grants may be extended to part-time students through  
41 regulations developed by the authority if funds are separately  
42 appropriated for this purpose. A student shall not be eligible for  
43 grants unless the student maintains such minimum standards of  
44 academic performance as are required by the institution of  
45 enrollment. A student who is enrolled in a course leading to a

**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 degree in theology or divinity shall not be eligible for a tuition aid  
2 grant.

3 c. A person shall not be awarded a State tuition aid grant unless  
4 that person:

5 (1) satisfies the residency and other requirements provided in  
6 article 1 of this part;

7 (2) has applied for State tuition aid and has been determined by  
8 the authority to be eligible for the tuition aid;

9 (3) has demonstrated financial need for the tuition aid as  
10 determined by and in accordance with standards to be established  
11 by the authority; and

12 (4) maintains satisfactory academic progress in accordance with  
13 standards established by the authority.

14 d. Eligibility criteria for summer tuition aid grants awarded  
15 pursuant to section 2 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
16 Legislature as this bill) shall conform to the requirements of this  
17 section and shall include the following additional eligibility criteria:

18 (1) the student is enrolled in six or more credit hours in the  
19 summer term;

20 (2) the courses for which the summer tuition aid grant is to be  
21 applied are in the same undergraduate program at the same  
22 institution in which the student was enrolled during the fall and  
23 spring semesters of the preceding academic year; and

24 (3) the courses for which the summer tuition aid grant is to be  
25 applied may be credited toward the student's graduation or  
26 academic major requirements.

27 (cf: N.J.S.18A:71B-20)

28

29 2. (New section) a. The authority shall award summer tuition  
30 aid grants for eligible students pursuant to N.J.S.18A:71B-20. A  
31 summer tuition aid grant shall be applied toward the tuition costs  
32 outside of the academic year, as defined in N.J.S.18A:71B-4. The  
33 receipt of a summer tuition aid grant shall not: (1) reduce the  
34 amount of a tuition aid grant awarded to the student during the  
35 academic year; (2) be included when determining the student's  
36 maximum tuition aid grant awards pursuant to subsection b. of this  
37 section; or (3) otherwise adversely affect the student's eligibility for  
38 an award under this chapter.

39 b. A summer tuition aid grant shall be prorated against the full-  
40 time tuition aid grant awarded in the preceding semester as follows:  
41 an eligible student enrolled with six to eight credits shall receive  
42 one-half of the value of a full-time award, and an eligible student  
43 enrolled with nine to 11 credits shall receive three-quarters of a full-  
44 time award.

45 c. A student shall not be eligible for more than four summer  
46 tuition aid grants.

47 d. (1) Summer tuition aid grants awarded pursuant to this  
48 section shall be funded by a separate line item.

1 (2) The amount of funds appropriated for full-time tuition aid  
2 grants shall not be reduced or diverted to implement the provisions  
3 of this act.

4 (3) The amount of funds appropriated for part-time tuition aid  
5 grants shall not be reduced or diverted to implement the provisions  
6 of this act.

7

8 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

9

10

11

#### STATEMENT

12

13 Providing financial aid to students taking summer classes helps  
14 accelerate completion of college degrees. By enabling students to  
15 complete a degree sooner, this aid can lower the total cost of  
16 attendance and reduce student loan debt. Students are eligible for  
17 federal financial aid during summer terms through the Year-Round  
18 Pell grant program. This bill authorizes the Higher Education  
19 Student Assistance Authority to award State-funded summer tuition  
20 aid grants for eligible students, following the federal Year-Round  
21 Pell grant program model. The bill provides that a student's receipt  
22 of a summer tuition aid grant will not: (1) reduce the amount of a  
23 tuition aid grant awarded to the student during the academic year;  
24 (2) be included when determining the student's maximum tuition  
25 aid grant awards; or (3) otherwise adversely affect the student's  
26 eligibility for other State student financial awards.

27 The bill provides that the eligibility criteria for summer tuition  
28 aid grants are required to conform to the eligibility requirements for  
29 tuition aid grants provided for study during the academic year, and  
30 will also require that:

- 31 • the student is enrolled in six or more credit hours in the  
32 summer term;
- 33 • the courses for which the summer tuition aid grant is to be  
34 applied are in the same undergraduate program at the same  
35 institution in which the student was enrolled during the fall  
36 and spring semesters of the preceding academic year; and
- 37 • the courses for which the summer tuition aid grant is to be  
38 applied may be credited towards the student's graduation or  
39 academic major requirements.

40 The bill further provides that a summer tuition aid grant will be  
41 prorated against the full-time tuition aid grant awarded in the  
42 preceding semester as follows: an eligible student enrolled with six  
43 to eight credits will receive one-half of the value of a full-time  
44 award, and an eligible student enrolled with nine to 11 credits will  
45 receive three-quarters of a full-time award.

46 Finally, the bill provides that:

- 47 • a student will not be eligible for more than four summer  
48 tuition aid grants;

**S3724 RUIZ, SARLO**

5

- 1       • summer tuition aid grants awarded pursuant to the bill will
- 2       be funded by a separate line item;
- 3       • the amount of funds appropriated for full-time tuition aid
- 4       grants will not be reduced or diverted to implement the
- 5       bill's provisions; and
- 6       • the amount of funds appropriated for part-time tuition aid
- 7       grants will not be reduced or diverted to implement the
- 8       bill's provisions.

# ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

**SENATE, No. 3724**

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 23, 2023

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3724 (1R).

This bill authorizes the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority to award State-funded summer tuition aid grants for eligible students in the summer 2023 semester only, and makes an appropriation. The bill provides that a student's receipt of a summer tuition aid grant is not to: (1) reduce the amount of a tuition aid grant awarded to the student during the academic year; (2) be included when determining the student's maximum tuition aid grant awards; or (3) otherwise adversely affect the student's eligibility for other State student financial awards.

The bill requires the eligibility criteria for summer tuition aid grants to conform to the eligibility requirements for tuition aid grants provided for study during the academic year, and also requires that:

- the student is enrolled in six or more credit hours in the summer term;
- the courses for which the summer tuition aid grant is to be applied are in the same undergraduate program at the same institution in which the student was enrolled during the fall and spring semesters of the preceding academic year; and
- the courses for which the summer tuition aid grant is to be applied may be credited towards the student's graduation or academic major requirements.

The amended bill further provides that a summer tuition aid grant is to be prorated against the full-time tuition aid grant awarded in the preceding semester as follows: an eligible student enrolled with six to eight credits will receive one-half of the value of a full-time award, and an eligible student enrolled with nine to 11 credits will receive three-quarters of a full-time award.

Finally, the amended bill provides that summer tuition aid grants are to be funded by the bill's appropriation and any additional amounts as may be required from the unexpended balance of funds previously awarded for tuition aid grants. The bill further permits the Legislature to award additional funds for the summer tuition aid grants by a separate line item.

As reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 3724 (1R) is identical to Assembly Bill No. 4924, which was amended and reported by the committee on this date.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that this bill may lead to an increase in State expenditures of as much as \$11.3 million, but it is likely that the unexpended amounts appropriated for the Tuition Aid Grant program will be sufficient to provide tuition aid grants for coursework completed in summer 2023.

The OLS estimates that the overall cost of providing summer grants would be between \$26.9 million and \$35.8 million, based on the number of students receiving grants for the academic year, and assuming that 15 percent of those students enroll in summer coursework. However, the bill provides that the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority may use funds from the unexpended balance of the funds appropriated for tuition aid grants. According to information in the State accounting system, there is currently \$24.5 million unexpended and unencumbered for the Tuition Aid Grant program. However, based on the amount available at the beginning of FY 2023 and assuming that grants are provided in approximately the same amounts as in FY 2022, the OLS estimates that there may be as much as \$42.2 million unexpended at the end of FY 2023 that would be available to implement the provisions of this bill. Using this information, the OLS estimates that this bill may lead to an increase in State expenditures of as much as \$11.3 million, but it is likely that the unexpended amounts appropriated for the Tuition Aid Grant program will be sufficient to provide summer grants under the bill. The bill also makes a \$1,000 appropriation to provide summer tuition aid grants.

# SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **SENATE, No. 3724**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 16, 2023

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 3724.

As amended, this bill authorizes the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority to award State-funded summer tuition aid grants for eligible students in the summer 2023 semester only, and makes an appropriation. The bill provides that a student's receipt of a summer tuition aid grant is not to: (1) reduce the amount of a tuition aid grant awarded to the student during the academic year; (2) be included when determining the student's maximum tuition aid grant awards; or (3) otherwise adversely affect the student's eligibility for other State student financial awards.

The amended bill requires the eligibility criteria for summer tuition aid grants to conform to the eligibility requirements for tuition aid grants provided for study during the academic year, and also requires that:

- the student is enrolled in six or more credit hours in the summer term;
- the courses for which the summer tuition aid grant is to be applied are in the same undergraduate program at the same institution in which the student was enrolled during the fall and spring semesters of the preceding academic year; and
- the courses for which the summer tuition aid grant is to be applied may be credited towards the student's graduation or academic major requirements.

The amended bill further provides that a summer tuition aid grant is to be prorated against the full-time tuition aid grant awarded in the preceding semester as follows: an eligible student enrolled with six to eight credits will receive one-half of the value of a full-time award, and an eligible student enrolled with nine to 11 credits will receive three-quarters of a full-time award.

Finally, the amended bill provides that summer tuition aid grants are to be funded by the bill's appropriation and any additional amounts as may be required from the unexpended balance of funds previously awarded for tuition aid grants. The bill further permits the Legislature to award additional funds for the summer tuition aid grants by a separate line item.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

- provide that the summer tuition aid grant only be made available in the summer 2023 semester and remove provisions relating to the provision of summer tuition aid grants beyond that time period;
- add a one-time appropriation of \$1,000 from the General Fund to the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority for the bill's purposes and provide that the summer tuition aid grants may also be financed by a separate line item;
- provide that the authority may use any additional amounts as may be required from the unexpended balance of funds previously awarded for tuition aid grants to cover the costs of the 2023 summer tuition aid grants; and
- update the bill's synopsis.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that this bill will lead to a one-time State expenditure increase of between \$22.7 million and \$31.7 million for tuition aid grants for coursework completed in the summer of 2023. The OLS estimates that the overall cost of providing summer grants would be between \$26.9 million and \$35.8 million, based on the number of students receiving grants for the academic year, and assuming that 15 percent of those students enroll in summer coursework. However, the bill provides that the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority may use funds from the unexpended balance of the funds appropriated for tuition aid grants. Over the last 10 fiscal years, an average of \$4.2 million of the appropriation for the Tuition Aid Grant program has been unexpended. If the authority were to use an amount equal to this average unexpended balance amount for the provision of summer 2023 grants, the remaining cost would be between \$22.7 and \$31.7 million. The bill also makes a \$1,000 appropriation for the provision of summer tuition aid grants.

# LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

**SENATE, No. 3724**

## **STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE**

DATED: MARCH 31, 2023

### SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Authorizes Higher Education Student Assistance Authority to award summer tuition aid grants in summer of 2023; appropriates \$1,000.
- Type of Impact:** State expenditure increase from the General Fund.
- Agencies Affected:** Higher Education Student Assistance Authority.

#### Office of Legislative Services Estimate

<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	<b><u>FY 2024</u></b>
<b>State Cost Increase</b>	\$26.9 million - \$35.8 million

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that this bill will lead to a one-time State expenditure increase between \$26.9 million and \$35.8 million in FY 2024 associated with providing tuition aid grants for coursework completed in summer 2023.

### BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill authorizes the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority to award State-funded summer tuition aid grants to eligible students in the summer 2023 semester. The bill provides that a student's receipt of a summer tuition aid grant is not to reduce the amount of a tuition aid grant awarded to the student during the academic year; be included when determining the student's maximum tuition aid grant awards; or otherwise adversely affect the student's eligibility for other State student financial aid awards.

The bill requires a summer tuition aid grant to be prorated against the full-time tuition aid grant awarded in the preceding semester so that a student enrolled in six to eight credits will receive half of the value of the full-time award and a student enrolled in nine to 11 credits will receive three-quarters of a full-time award.

The bill provides that summer tuition aid grants are to be funded by an appropriation of \$1,000 included in the bill, in addition to any available amount of unexpended funds from the full-time tuition aid grant account and any additional appropriation the Legislature may enact.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### ***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

No fiscal note has been submitted on this bill. However, the Tuition Aid Grant Study Commission, established by P.L.2019, c.298, recommended in its October 2022 Final Report expanding the Tuition Aid Grant program to provide awards to students enrolled in the summer terms. In the report, the Task Force estimated doing so would cost between \$29 million and \$39 million.

### ***OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES***

The OLS estimates that this bill will lead to a one-time State expenditure increase between \$26.9 million and \$35.8 million in FY 2024 associated with providing tuition aid grants for coursework completed in summer 2023. Revised evaluation data included in the Governor's FY 2024 Detailed Budget indicates that 62,128 students received full-time tuition aid grants in the 2022-2023 academic year. Based on a comparison to federal Pell Grant participation, the OLS assumes that approximately 15 percent of full-time tuition aid grant recipients would also receive summer grants, which yields approximately 9,319 recipients of summer tuition aid grants. The average full-time semester tuition aid grant awarded for coursework during the academic year is \$3,846. Assuming that every eligible student enrolled in the summer attends full-time, the total cost to the State would be approximately \$35.8 million. However, it is likely that not every student would enroll full-time in summer coursework. To account for students attending part-time and full-time, the OLS assumes that the average student would enroll in between nine and 11 credits, or 75 percent of a full-time course load. Under these assumptions, the cost to the State of providing summer tuition aid grants would be \$26.9 million.

The OLS notes that, using a similar methodology, the Tuition Aid Grant Study Commission estimated that there would be a cost of between \$29 and \$39 million to implement the provisions of this bill.

*Section: Education*

*Analyst: Abigail Chambers  
Assistant Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: Thomas Koenig  
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. 4924

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 5, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY**

**District 27 (Essex and Morris)**

**Assemblywoman LINDA S. CARTER**

**District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)**

**Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**Assemblyman REGINALD W. ATKINS**

**District 20 (Union)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Authorizes Higher Education Student Assistance Authority to award summer tuition aid grants.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/15/2022)**

1 AN ACT concerning student financial assistance, amending  
2 N.J.S.18A:71B-20, and supplementing chapter 71B of Title 18A  
3 of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

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10 annually to each eligible, qualified full-time undergraduate student  
11 enrolled in a curriculum leading to a degree or certificate in an  
12 eligible institution, or in an institution of higher education in  
13 another state, provided that state permits its residents to utilize its  
14 state student financial assistance grants in New Jersey institutions  
15 of higher education through reciprocity agreements approved by the  
16 authority. In no event shall a State tuition aid grant be utilized at an  
17 out-of-State institution which is not licensed by that state and  
18 accredited by a regional accrediting association recognized by a  
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20 b. To each New Jersey resident enrolled as a full-time student,  
21 except as otherwise provided in subsection d. of this section, and  
22 meeting the other requirements for eligibility under this chapter, the  
23 State shall grant an amount as provided in N.J.S.18A:71B-21. A  
24 student shall not be eligible for a grant unless the application is in a  
25 form satisfactory to the authority. A student shall not be eligible for  
26 grants for more than four and one-half academic years, unless the  
27 recipient is enrolled in an undergraduate program regularly  
28 requiring five academic years for completion, in which case the  
29 authority shall permit five and one-half years of eligibility.  
30 Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, a student receiving aid  
31 under the provisions of P.L.1968, c.142 (C.18A:71-28 et seq.) shall  
32 be entitled to a sixth year of eligibility. Notwithstanding the  
33 foregoing provisions, a county college student who transfers to a  
34 four- year institution, or any student who is required to pursue 18 or  
35 more credit hours in a remedial or developmental curriculum, as  
36 defined by regulations adopted by the authority, is entitled to an  
37 additional half year of eligibility. For the purpose of this article, a  
38 remedial curriculum shall include only noncredit courses in which a  
39 student is directed to enroll by the institution. Eligibility for tuition  
40 aid grants may be extended to part-time students through  
41 regulations developed by the authority if funds are separately  
42 appropriated for this purpose. A student shall not be eligible for  
43 grants unless the student maintains such minimum standards of  
44 academic performance as are required by the institution of  
45 enrollment. A student who is enrolled in a course leading to a

**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 degree in theology or divinity shall not be eligible for a tuition aid  
2 grant.

3 c. A person shall not be awarded a State tuition aid grant unless  
4 that person:

5 (1) satisfies the residency and other requirements provided in  
6 article 1 of this part;

7 (2) has applied for State tuition aid and has been determined by  
8 the authority to be eligible for the tuition aid;

9 (3) has demonstrated financial need for the tuition aid as  
10 determined by and in accordance with standards to be established  
11 by the authority; and

12 (4) maintains satisfactory academic progress in accordance with  
13 standards established by the authority.

14 d. Eligibility criteria for summer tuition aid grants awarded  
15 pursuant to section 2 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
16 Legislature as this bill) shall conform to the requirements of this  
17 section and shall include the following additional eligibility criteria:

18 (1) the student is enrolled in six or more credit hours in the  
19 summer term;

20 (2) the courses for which the summer tuition aid grant is to be  
21 applied are in the same undergraduate program at the same  
22 institution in which the student was enrolled during the fall or  
23 spring semester of the preceding academic year; and

24 (3) the courses for which the summer tuition aid grant is to be  
25 applied may be credited toward the student's graduation or  
26 academic major requirements.

27 (cf: N.J.S.18A:71B-20)

28

29 2. (New section) a. The authority shall award summer tuition aid  
30 grants for eligible students pursuant to N.J.S.18A:71B-20. A  
31 summer tuition aid grant shall be applied toward the tuition costs  
32 outside of the academic year, as defined in N.J.S.18A:71B-4. The  
33 receipt of a summer tuition aid grant shall not: (1) reduce the  
34 amount of a tuition aid grant awarded to the student during the  
35 academic year; (2) be included when determining the student's  
36 maximum tuition aid grant awards pursuant to subsection b. of this  
37 section; or (3) otherwise adversely affect the student's eligibility for  
38 an award under this chapter.

39 b. A summer tuition aid grant shall be prorated against the full-  
40 time tuition aid grant awarded in the preceding semester as follows:  
41 an eligible student enrolled with six to eight credits shall receive  
42 one-half of the value of a full-time award, and an eligible student  
43 enrolled with nine to 11 credits shall receive three-quarters of a full-  
44 time award.

45 c. A student shall not be eligible for more than four summer  
46 tuition aid grants.

47 d. (1) Summer tuition aid grants awarded pursuant to this  
48 section shall be funded by a separate line item.

1 (2) The amount of funds appropriated for full-time tuition aid  
2 grants shall not be reduced or diverted to implement the provisions  
3 of this act.

4 (3) The amount of funds appropriated for part-time tuition aid  
5 grants shall not be reduced or diverted to implement the provisions  
6 of this act.

7

8 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

9

10

11

## STATEMENT

12

13 Providing financial aid to students taking summer classes helps  
14 accelerate completion of college degrees. By enabling students to  
15 complete a degree sooner, this aid can lower the total cost of  
16 attendance and reduce student loan debt. Students are eligible for  
17 federal financial aid during summer terms through the Year-Round  
18 Pell grant program. This bill authorizes the Higher Education  
19 Student Assistance Authority to award State-funded summer tuition  
20 aid grants for eligible students, following the federal Year-Round  
21 Pell grant program model. The bill provides that a student's receipt  
22 of a summer tuition aid grant will not: (1) reduce the amount of a  
23 tuition aid grant awarded to the student during the academic year;  
24 (2) be included when determining the student's maximum tuition  
25 aid grant awards; or (3) otherwise adversely affect the student's  
26 eligibility for other State student financial awards.

27 The bill provides that the eligibility criteria for summer tuition  
28 aid grants are required to conform to the eligibility requirements for  
29 tuition aid grants provided for study during the academic year, and  
30 will also require that:

- 31
- 32 • the student is enrolled in six or more credit hours in the  
33 summer term;
  - 34 • the courses for which the summer tuition aid grant is to be  
35 applied are in the same undergraduate program at the same  
36 institution in which the student was enrolled during the fall  
37 or spring semester of the preceding academic year; and
  - 38 • the courses for which the summer tuition aid grant is to be  
39 applied may be credited towards the student's graduation or  
40 academic major requirements.

41 The bill further provides that a summer tuition aid grant will be  
42 prorated against the full-time tuition aid grant awarded in the  
43 preceding semester as follows: an eligible student enrolled with six  
44 to eight credits will receive one-half of the value of a full-time  
45 award, and an eligible student enrolled with nine to 11 credits will  
46 receive three-quarters of a full-time award.

47 Finally, the bill provides that:

- 48 • a student will not be eligible for more than four summer  
tuition aid grants;

**A4924 JASEY, CARTER**

5

- 1       • summer tuition aid grants awarded pursuant to the bill will
- 2       be funded by a separate line item;
- 3       • the amount of funds appropriated for full-time tuition aid
- 4       grants will not be reduced or diverted to implement the
- 5       bill's provisions; and
- 6       • the amount of funds appropriated for part-time tuition aid
- 7       grants will not be reduced or diverted to implement the
- 8       bill's provisions.

# ASSEMBLY HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### ASSEMBLY, No. 4924

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 12, 2022

The Assembly Higher Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4924.

As reported by the committee, this bill authorizes the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority to award State-funded summer tuition aid grants for eligible students, following the federal Year-Round Pell grant program model.

The bill provides that a student's receipt of a summer tuition aid grant will not: (1) reduce the amount of a tuition aid grant awarded to the student during the academic year; (2) be included when determining the student's maximum tuition aid grant awards; or (3) otherwise adversely affect the student's eligibility for other State student financial awards.

The bill provides that the eligibility criteria for summer tuition aid grants are required to conform to the eligibility requirements for tuition aid grants provided for study during the academic year, and also requires that:

- the student is enrolled in six or more credit hours in the summer term;
- the courses for which the summer tuition aid grant is to be applied are in the same undergraduate program at the same institution in which the student was enrolled during the fall or spring semester of the preceding academic year; and
- the courses for which the summer tuition aid grant is to be applied may be credited towards the student's graduation or academic major requirements.

The bill further provides that a summer tuition aid grant will be prorated against the full-time tuition aid grant awarded in the preceding semester as follows: an eligible student enrolled with six to eight credits will receive one-half of the value of a full-time award, and an eligible student enrolled with nine to 11 credits will receive three-quarters of a full-time award.

Finally, the bill provides that:

- a student will not be eligible for more than four summer tuition aid grants;
- summer tuition aid grants awarded pursuant to the bill will be funded by a separate line item;

- the amount of funds appropriated for full-time tuition aid grants will not be reduced or diverted to implement the bill's provisions; and
- the amount of funds appropriated for part-time tuition aid grants will not be reduced or diverted to implement the bill's provisions.

# ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **ASSEMBLY, No. 4924**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 23, 2023

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 4924.

As amended, this bill authorizes the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority to award State-funded summer tuition aid grants for eligible students in the summer 2023 semester only, and makes an appropriation. The bill provides that a student's receipt of a summer tuition aid grant is not to: (1) reduce the amount of a tuition aid grant awarded to the student during the academic year; (2) be included when determining the student's maximum tuition aid grant awards; or (3) otherwise adversely affect the student's eligibility for other State student financial awards.

The amended bill requires the eligibility criteria for summer tuition aid grants to conform to the eligibility requirements for tuition aid grants provided for study during the academic year, and also requires that:

- the student is enrolled in six or more credit hours in the summer term;
- the courses for which the summer tuition aid grant is to be applied are in the same undergraduate program at the same institution in which the student was enrolled during the fall and spring semesters of the preceding academic year; and
- the courses for which the summer tuition aid grant is to be applied may be credited towards the student's graduation or academic major requirements.

The amended bill further provides that a summer tuition aid grant is to be prorated against the full-time tuition aid grant awarded in the preceding semester as follows: an eligible student enrolled with six to eight credits will receive one-half of the value of a full-time award, and an eligible student enrolled with nine to 11 credits will receive three-quarters of a full-time award.

Finally, the amended bill provides that summer tuition aid grants are to be funded by the bill's appropriation and any additional amounts as may be required from the unexpended balance of funds previously awarded for tuition aid grants. The bill further permits the Legislature to award additional funds for the summer tuition aid grants by a separate line item.

As amended and reported, Assembly Bill No. 4924 is identical to Senate Bill No. 3724 (1R), which was also reported by the committee on this date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

- provide that the summer tuition aid grant only be made available in the summer 2023 semester and remove provisions relating to the provision of summer tuition aid grants beyond that time period;
- add a one-time appropriation of \$1,000 from the General Fund to the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority for the bill's purposes and provide that the summer tuition aid grants may also be financed by a separate line item;
- provide that the authority may use any additional amounts as may be required from the unexpended balance of funds previously awarded for tuition aid grants to cover the costs of the 2023 summer tuition aid grants; and
- make technical changes.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that this bill may lead to an increase in State expenditures of as much as \$11.3 million, but it is likely that the unexpended amounts appropriated for the Tuition Aid Grant program will be sufficient to provide tuition aid grants for coursework completed in summer 2023.

The OLS estimates that the overall cost of providing summer grants would be between \$26.9 million and \$35.8 million, based on the number of students receiving grants for the academic year, and assuming that 15 percent of those students enroll in summer coursework. However, the bill provides that the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority may use funds from the unexpended balance of the funds appropriated for tuition aid grants. According to information in the State accounting system, there is currently \$24.5 million unexpended and unencumbered for the Tuition Aid Grant program. However, based on the amount available at the beginning of FY 2023 and assuming that grants are provided in approximately the same amounts as in FY 2022, the OLS estimates that there may be as much as \$42.2 million unexpended at the end of FY 2023 that would be available to implement the provisions of this bill. Using this information, the OLS estimates that this bill may lead to an increase in State expenditures of as much as \$11.3 million, but it is likely that the unexpended amounts appropriated for the Tuition Aid Grant program will be sufficient to provide summer grants under the bill. The bill also makes a \$1,000 appropriation to provide summer tuition aid grants.

# LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

## ASSEMBLY, No. 4924

### STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

DATED: MARCH 31, 2023

#### SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Authorizes Higher Education Student Assistance Authority to award summer tuition aid grants in summer of 2023; appropriates \$1,000.
- Type of Impact:** State expenditure increase from the General Fund.
- Agencies Affected:** Higher Education Student Assistance Authority.

#### Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	FY 2024
State Cost Increase	\$26.9 million - \$35.8 million

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that this bill will lead to a one-time State expenditure increase between \$26.9 million and \$35.8 million in FY 2024 associated with providing tuition aid grants for coursework completed in summer 2023.

#### BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill authorizes the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority to award State-funded summer tuition aid grants to eligible students in the summer 2023 semester. The bill provides that a student's receipt of a summer tuition aid grant is not to reduce the amount of a tuition aid grant awarded to the student during the academic year; be included when determining the student's maximum tuition aid grant awards; or otherwise adversely affect the student's eligibility for other State student financial aid awards.

The bill requires a summer tuition aid grant to be prorated against the full-time tuition aid grant awarded in the preceding semester so that a student enrolled in six to eight credits will receive half of the value of the full-time award and a student enrolled in nine to 11 credits will receive three-quarters of a full-time award.

The bill provides that summer tuition aid grants are to be funded by an appropriation of \$1,000 included in the bill, in addition to any available amount of unexpended funds from the full-time tuition aid grant account and any additional appropriation the Legislature may enact.

## FISCAL ANALYSIS

### *EXECUTIVE BRANCH*

No fiscal note has been submitted on this bill. However, the Tuition Aid Grant Study Commission, established by P.L.2019, c.298, recommended in its October 2022 Final Report expanding the Tuition Aid Grant program to provide awards to students enrolled in the summer terms. In the report, the Task Force estimated doing so would cost between \$29 million and \$39 million.

### *OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES*

The OLS estimates that this bill will lead to a one-time State expenditure increase between \$26.9 million and \$35.8 million in FY 2024 associated with providing tuition aid grants for coursework completed in summer 2023. Revised evaluation data included in the Governor's FY 2024 Detailed Budget indicates that 62,128 students received full-time tuition aid grants in the 2022-2023 academic year. Based on a comparison to federal Pell Grant participation, the OLS assumes that approximately 15 percent of full-time tuition aid grant recipients would also receive summer grants, which yields approximately 9,319 recipients of summer tuition aid grants. The average full-time semester tuition aid grant awarded for coursework during the academic year is \$3,846. Assuming that every eligible student enrolled in the summer attends full-time, the total cost to the State would be approximately \$35.8 million. However, it is likely that not every student would enroll full-time in summer coursework. To account for students attending part-time and full-time, the OLS assumes that the average student would enroll in between nine and 11 credits, or 75 percent of a full-time course load. Under these assumptions, the cost to the State of providing summer tuition aid grants would be \$26.9 million.

The OLS notes that, using a similar methodology, the Tuition Aid Grant Study Commission estimated that there would be a cost of between \$29 and \$39 million to implement the provisions of this bill.

*Section: Education*  
*Analyst: Abigail Chambers*  
*Assistant Fiscal Analyst*  
*Approved: Thomas Koenig*  
*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 Announces Over 70,000 Total Awards Through College Promise Initiative, Highlights Higher Education Investments in Fiscal Year 2024 Budget

04/5/2023

*Governor Also Announces Expansion of Tuition Aid Grants to Cover Summer Courses for Eligible Students as Part of Ongoing Efforts to Expand Access to Affordable Higher Education*

**NEWARK** – At a roundtable discussion with students and higher education stakeholders at Rutgers University–Newark, Governor Phil Murphy today announced that over 70,000 awards have already been given out through the New Jersey College Promise initiative and highlighted higher education investments in his Fiscal Year 2024 (FY2024) budget proposal – including additional funding to expand College Promise. The Governor also announced the signing of a bill today to provide additional Tuition Aid Grants (TAG) for eligible students take summer courses this year.

“Ensuring equitable access to a high-quality education remains a key priority of my Administration – and making college more affordable is a critical component of those efforts,” said **Governor Murphy**. “By expanding the New Jersey College Promise, we can build on the success of this initiative to help more students like those we heard from today achieve their educational goals. Continuing to invest in higher education in the FY2024 budget and beyond will benefit thousands of students and their families throughout our state.”

Participants in today’s roundtable included New Jersey Secretary of Higher Education Dr. Brian Bridges; Assemblywoman Mila Jasey; Melissa Byrne, Founder, We the 45 Million; and three Rutgers–Newark students who have received assistance through the New Jersey College Promise initiative.

The [New Jersey College Promise](#) consists of two financial aid programs – the Community College Opportunity Grant (CCOG) Program and the Garden State Guarantee (GSG) – that together provide an affordable pathway for New Jersey students to earn a college degree by covering a significant portion or all of their tuition and fees not already covered by other financial aid and scholarships.

To build on his commitment to improving access to affordable, high-quality higher education, Governor Murphy’s Fiscal Year 2024 budget proposal includes \$134 million to expand New Jersey College Promise. In academic year 2023-2024, the Governor’s budget proposes to increase the annual income threshold for New Jersey College Promise from the \$80,000 to \$100,000.

“Listening to the compelling stories from students today demonstrated just how important and life-changing more equitable pathways to college can be for New Jersey residents and their families,” said **Dr. Brian K. Bridges, Secretary of Higher Education**. “Just this year, we expect almost 30,000 students to benefit from the New Jersey College Promise. This means access to a debt-free degree for thousands of families and, by expanding eligibility, sends a consistent message to our students, their families, and the state that we are invested in providing opportunity and helping people maximize their potential through affordable postsecondary pathways in New Jersey.”

“New Jersey’s College Promise supports students who once thought college was beyond their financial reach, and now are able to earn a bachelor’s degree without taking on excessive student loan debt. Also, providing TAG awards to help students pay for summer classes will boost college graduation rates, helping students advance their education and achieve their career goals more rapidly. The inspirational journeys of the students at today’s roundtable, and tens of thousands more with similar life circumstances, show the value of Governor Murphy’s vision to expand these programs,” said **David J. Socolow, Executive Director of the New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA)**. “Making student with family incomes up to \$100,000 eligible for the College Promise will reach many who do not currently receive any federal or state financial aid – allowing them to focus on their studies and take on less student debt.”

Since 2019, more than 56,000 eligible students have received help in progressing towards their associate degrees with support from Community College Opportunity Grants (CCOG) – the first part of the NJ College Promise. The Garden State Guarantee (GSG) – which comprises the second part of the New Jersey College Promise by offering financial aid to students in their third and fourth years at a New Jersey public college or university if they decide to pursue a bachelor’s degree – is currently supporting more than 14,000 eligible students in its inaugural year.

Additionally, the bill signed today (S-3724) will authorize the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) to award TAGs for eligible students taking summer courses in 2023, since TAG currently only covers spring and fall semesters. These additional grants are estimated to benefit approximately 9,500 students.

Legislative sponsors of the bill include Senate Majority Leader Teresa Ruiz and Assemblywoman Mila Jasey, as well as Senator Paul Sarlo and Assembly members Linda Carter, Vanessa Reynolds-Jackson, and Reginald Atkins.

“The TAG Program has been a tremendous resource and key piece of financial aid for many students across the state,” said **Senate Majority Leader Ruiz**. “This legislation will expand the program to support this year’s summer sessions, allowing students to get ahead on their course load or stay on track to graduate. Encouraging students to take advantage of summer classes and explore ways to graduate early will be an integral piece as we continue looking for creative ways to make higher education more accessible and affordable.”

“Expanding the tuition aid grant program, known as TAG, to cover the 2023 summer session will make a tremendous difference for so many New Jersey students and their families. Keeping with our efforts to make college more accessible and affordable, this will enable 10,000 low to moderate-income students in New Jersey to take advantage of summer courses,” said **Assemblywoman Jasey, Chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee**. “Utilizing unexpended funds to finance summer TAG will help promote faster graduation with less debt.”

The Governor also highlighted other higher education investments in the FY2024 budget, such as funding to increase the amount of assistance students can receive through their state and increased funding for the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education’s (OSHE) Some College, No Degree program. “Getting rid of student loan debt and reining in the cost of college is hand in hand,” said **Melissa Byrne, Founder, We the 45 Million**. “Governor Murphy’s steadfast focus on college access in New Jersey helps to protect current and future students and their families from the student debt weighing down previous students.”