

18A:62-3

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA 18A:62-3 (Senior citizens-Higher education-credit or non-credit-free enrollment at public institution)

LAWS 1982 CHAPTER 137

Bill No. A536

Sponsor(s) Bennett

Date Introduced Pre-filed

Committee: Assembly Higher Education and Regulated Professions; Revenue, Finance & Appropriation

Senate Education

Amended during passage Yes ~~Substituted for A1542~~ (Attached)

Date of Passage: Assembly July 1, 1982

Senate July 22, 1982

Date of approval September 16, 1982

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement	Yes	NO (Below)
Committee Statement: Assembly	Yes	NO 2-22-82 & 5-28-82
Senate	Yes	NO
Fiscal Note	Yes	No
Veto Message	Yes	No
Message on signing	Yes	NO

Following were printed:

Reports	Yes	No
Hearings	Yes	No

Sponsor's statement:
This bill requires public institutions of higher education in New Jersey to enroll persons of the age of 65 or more years in certain courses for credit or on a noncredit basis free of charge.

Note: Attorney General Ruling, mentioned in senate committee statement was not an Attorney General Opinion, but an oral ruling by Eric Perkins, Department of Higher Education.

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9-16-82

[OFFICIAL COPY REPRINT]

ASSEMBLY, No. 536

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1982 SESSION

By Assemblyman BENNETT

AN ACT to amend "An act concerning public higher education and supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes," approved February 22, 1979 (P. L. 1979, c. 31).

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

1 1. Section 1 of P. L. 1979, c. 31 (C. 18A:62-3) is amended to
2 read as follows:

3 1. Each public institution of higher education in New Jersey
4 **[may]** ***[shall]*** ***may***, pursuant to such rules and regulations
5 as shall be promulgated by the State Board of Higher Education,
6 permit persons of the age of 65 or more years to enroll without
7 the payment of any tuition charges in regularly scheduled courses
8 ***[for credit or on a noncredit basis]***; provided that available
9 classroom space permits and that tuition paying students consti-
10 tute the minimum number required for the course, provided that
11 nothing herein shall preclude public institutions from requiring
12 registration fees, subject to approval by the State Board, for
13 individuals attending courses pursuant to waivers granted under
14 this act.

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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 printed in italics thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in asterisks or stars has been adopted as follows:

***—Senate committee amendments adopted July 22, 1982.**

SENATE, No. 1542
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JUNE 14, 1982

By Senator FELDMAN

Referred to Committee on Education

AN ACT concerning public higher education and amending
P. L. 1979, c. 31.

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

1 1. P. L. 1979, c. 31 (C. 18A:62-3) is amended to read as follows:

2 1. Each public institution of higher education in New Jersey
3 may, pursuant to such rules and regulations as shall be promul-
4 gated by the State Board of Higher Education, permit persons
5 of the age of 65 or more years to enroll without the payment of
6 any tuition charges in regularly scheduled courses **[** on a noncredit
7 basis **]**; provided that available classroom space permits and that
8 tuition paying students constitute the minimum number required
9 for the course, provided that nothing herein shall preclude public
10 institutions from requiring registration fees, subject to approval
11 by the State Board, for individuals attending courses pursuant to
12 waivers granted under this act.

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill would allow senior citizens to enroll in New Jersey public institutions of higher education without payment of tuition even if they are taking those courses for credit.

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

ASSEMBLY HIGHER EDUCATION AND REGULATED
PROFESSIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 536

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 22, 1982

This bill requires public institutions of higher education to enroll persons 65 years of age or older without payment of tuition in regularly scheduled courses on a credit or noncredit basis provided that there is classroom space available. Under current law, an institution of higher education may enroll such persons on a noncredit basis if it wishes to do so.

ASSEMBLY REVENUE, FINANCE AND APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 536

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 28, 1982

PROVISIONS:

This bill requires that every public institution of higher education must enroll persons of the age of 65 or more years, tuition free, in any regularly scheduled courses for credit or on a noncredit basis, provided that (a) available classroom space permits, (b) tuition paying students constitute the minimum number to offer the course, and (c) registration fees can be charged.

CURRENT LAW:

Current law permits, but does not require, public colleges to enroll senior citizens on a noncredit basis and subject to the provisos above.

COST IMPACT:

A fiscal note is not yet available on this bill. However, a fiscal note was prepared on this bill in the last session on this same proposal. A copy of that note reflects an estimated reduction in State revenue of \$75,000.00 annually.

It is important to note that the estimate is based upon enrollment data in the State colleges only, exclusive of Rutgers, CMD, NJIT, and the county college system.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 536

with Senate committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JULY 22, 1982

PROVISIONS:

This bill would allow senior citizens to enroll in New Jersey public institutions of higher education without payment of tuition even if they are taking the courses for credit.

BACKGROUND:

In 1979, legislation was enacted allowing senior citizens to enroll in higher education classes without paying tuition if the courses were not for credit (P. L. 1979, c. 31). Since this was only permitted if classroom space was available and if there were enough tuition paying students to justify the course, some colleges allowed senior citizens to enroll on a for-credit basis without charging them tuition. This was determined by the trustees of the individual institutions. However, a recent ruling by the Attorney General indicated that, since the law was specific, these institutions had to charge tuition if the senior citizen was taking the course for credit.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

Since the senior citizens can only enroll in courses which would be given in any event, and can only enroll if there is available space, there would be no additional costs to the institutions or to the State as a result of this bill.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The amendments are intended to make Assembly Bill No. 536 identical to Senate Bill No. 1542.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

CONTACT: CARL GOLDEN

SEPTEMBER 16, 1982

NOTICE: THIS INFORMATION IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 01-15-2009 BY 60322 UCBAW/STP/STP

Governor Thomas H. Kean today signed a package of legislation to increase the reduced utility cost program for senior citizens, to broaden educational opportunities for seniors, and to permit increased aid for senior citizen organizations.

The Governor signed the four bills during a ceremony at a Senior Citizens Cultural Festival in the South Mountain Arena in West Orange. The event was sponsored by the Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs.

The four bills are:

• An increase from \$150 to \$175 in the amount of credit against utility bills for eligible senior citizens and the disabled for this fiscal year and an increase to \$200 in the next fiscal year. The increase will cost \$6 million each year.

• The same increase in the credit for eligible senior citizens and the disabled who are tenants, rather than homeowners. The increase will cost \$2.6 million each year.

• Elimination of the \$3,000 now in the law as the limit which counties and municipalities may contribute to a non-profit senior citizen center.

• Permits state colleges to enroll senior citizens in credit courses free of charge if space is available.

"The increase in the lifeline credit will help seniors and the disabled to keep pace with the increase in utility costs and will aid in easing the financial burden caused by those cost increases," Kean said. "For many of our seniors and disabled, this assistance in meeting utility bills has spelled the difference between financial stability and bankruptcy."

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"Removal of the ceiling on amounts which counties and municipalities may contribute to a senior citizen center will give local governing bodies much more flexibility in their level of support for such centers," Kean said. "In many instances, the \$3,000 limit prevented local governments from providing the level of assistance necessary to keep the centers in full operation."

Kean said permitting seniors to enroll in credit courses at state colleges free of charge "is another example of government's commitment to assuring that the elderly population of the state have the opportunity to broaden their educational horizons."

The bill to increase the lifeline credit for homewoners, A-1113, was sponsored by Assemblyman John Doyle, D-Ocean.

The bill to increase the lifeline credit for tenants, A-1112, was sponsored by Assemblyman Richard VanWagner, D-Monmouth.

The bill to eliminate the contribution ceiling, A-547, was sponsored by Assemblyman Jorge Rod, R-Ocean.

The bill to permit seniors to take credit courses free of charge, A-536, was sponsored by Assemblyman John Bennett, R-Monmouth.

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