

18A: 62-3

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

WJSA 18A:62-3 (Senior citizens-public colleges-
permit enrollment-allow certain
tuition exemptions)

LAWS OF 1979 CHAPTER 31

Bill No. A1078

Sponsor(s) Hardwick and others

Date Introduced April 17, 1978

Committee: Assembly Education

Senate Education

Amended during passage Yes ~~xxx~~ Amendments during
passage denoted
by asterisks

Date of Passage: Assembly June 22, 1978

Senate Jan. 22, 1979

Date of approval Feb. 22, 1979

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement Yes ~~xxx~~ (Below)

Committee Statement: Assembly Yes ~~xxx~~

Senate ~~xxx~~ No

Fiscal Note Yes ~~xxx~~

Veto message ~~xxx~~ No

Message on signing Yes ~~xxx~~

Following were printed:

Reports ~~xxx~~ No

Hearings ~~xxx~~ No

Sponsor's statement:

The purpose of this bill is to permit senior citizens to enroll
in any public college without the payment of any tuition charges in
certain cases.

EJ

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[OFFICIAL COPY REPRINT]
ASSEMBLY, No. 1078

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED APRIL 17, 1978

By Assemblyman HARDWICK, Assemblywomen BURGIO, GARVIN,
 Assemblymen CONTILLO, CALI, PASCULLI, Assemblywoman
 CURRAN, Assemblymen MAGUIRE, McMANIMON and Di-
 FRANCESCO

Referred to Committee on Education

AN ACT concerning public higher education and supplementing
 Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

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

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 1078

with Assembly committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 8, 1978

PROVISIONS:

The Assembly Education Committee favorably reports this bill which encourages colleges to permit senior citizens to audit courses and provides for State Board approval of registration fees which may be charged.

BACKGROUND:

At the committee's request the Department of Higher Education surveyed the public institutions of higher education to determine how many provided this opportunity for senior citizens. They discovered that Rutgers—The State University, all the county colleges and five of the State colleges are presently offering this option. Only Jersey City State, Montclair and Stockton do not currently permit senior citizens to audit courses free of charge.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

Since the bill did not clearly address the question of whether the institutions can charge student fees to senior citizens who audit such courses the committee amended this bill to permit registration fees subject to the approval of the State Board of Higher Education.

The committee also amended this bill to make it permissive rather than mandatory.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

The Department of Higher Education states "There would be no direct cost to the State if this legislation is enacted, providing classroom space is available and instruction is provided on a noncredit basis. However, there would be indirect costs as enrollment would affect faculty workload as well as some administrative costs, such as admissions and records. It is not possible to accurately estimate what such costs might be."

POSITIONS ON THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

While the Department of Higher Education has encouraged public institutions of higher education to permit senior citizens to audit courses it does not oppose the amended version of the bill since it leaves the final choice with the Board of Trustees of each institution.

FISCAL NOTE TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 1078

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 26, 1978

The Official Copy Reprint of Assembly Bill No. 1078 would permit senior citizens to enroll in any public college without the payment of any tuition charges in certain cases. With State Board approval, the institutions may charge registration fees.

The Department of Higher Education feels that since the institutions may set registration fees to cover the indirect cost of services, the program would be self-financing.

In compliance with written request received, there is hereby submitted a fiscal estimate for the above bill, pursuant to P. L. 1962, c. 27.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

FEBRUARY 22, 1979

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KATHRYN FORSYTH

Senior citizens may now enroll in courses at public colleges and universities on a non-credit basis without paying tuition under a bill signed today by Governor Brendan Byrne.

The bill, A-1078, was sponsored by Assemblyman Charles Hardwick (R-Union).

Under the measure, public institutions of higher education may enroll persons age 65 or over in regularly scheduled courses on a space-available basis without charging tuition, although the colleges may charge registration fees, subject to the approval of the State Board of Higher Education, to cover the administrative costs of enrollment.

Enrollment procedures will be pursuant to rules and regulations to be promulgated by the State Board.

The past policy of the State Board was to permit individual college boards of trustees to adopt tuition waiver programs at their discretion.

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