

**18A:71B-85.5a**  
**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST**  
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**LAWS OF:** 2014                      **CHAPTER:** 55

**NJSA:** 18A:71B-85.5a (Provides that eligibility for NJ STARS Program be based on class rank at completion of student's junior year or senior year of high school)

**BILL NO:** A2364                      (Substituted for S1985)

**SPONSOR(S)** Wolfe and others

**DATE INTRODUCED:** February 6, 2014

**COMMITTEE:**                      **ASSEMBLY:** Higher Education

**SENATE:** Higher Education  
Budget and Appropriations

**AMENDED DURING PASSAGE:** Yes

**DATE OF PASSAGE:**                      **ASSEMBLY:** June 23, 2014

**SENATE:** June 12, 2014

**DATE OF APPROVAL:** September 10, 2014

**FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:**

**FINAL TEXT OF BILL** (First reprint enacted)

**A2364**

<b>SPONSOR'S STATEMENT:</b> (Begins on page 4 of introduced bill)	Yes	
<b>COMMITTEE STATEMENT:</b>	<b>ASSEMBLY:</b>	Yes
	<b>SENATE:</b>	Yes Higher Education Budget and Approp.

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

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:** No

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:** No

**S1985**

<b>SPONSOR'S STATEMENT:</b> (Begins on page 4 of introduced bill)	Yes	
<b>COMMITTEE STATEMENT:</b>	<b>ASSEMBLY:</b>	No
	<b>SENATE:</b>	Yes Higher Education Budget and Approp.

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:** No

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:** No

(continued)

**VETO MESSAGE:** No

**GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:** No

**FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:**

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**REPORTS:** No

**HEARINGS:** No

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:** Yes

"Bill designed to add clarity to NJ STARS program goes to governor," Star-Ledger, 6-24-14.

LAW/KR

P.L.2014, CHAPTER 55, *approved September 10, 2014*  
Assembly, No. 2364 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning eligibility for the New Jersey Student Tuition  
2 Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS) Program <sup>1</sup>**[and]** <sup>1</sup>  
3 amending <sup>1</sup>and supplementing<sup>1</sup> P.L.2004, c.59 <sup>1</sup> <sup>1</sup> and <sup>1</sup>amending<sup>1</sup>  
4 P.L.2009, c.280.

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

8  
9 1. Section 5 of P.L.2004, c.59 (C.18A:71B-85) is amended to  
10 read as follows:

11 5. a. A scholarship under the NJ STARS Program shall cover  
12 the full cost of tuition, subject to the prior application of other  
13 grants and scholarships against those costs as provided under  
14 paragraph (2) of subsection c. of this section, for up to 18 credit  
15 hours in any semester, for an eligible student enrolled in a full-time  
16 course of study at the New Jersey county college serving the  
17 student's county of residence. An otherwise eligible student who  
18 demonstrates to the authority, in accordance with such criteria and  
19 by means of such documentation as the authority shall establish by  
20 regulation, that the county college serving the student's county of  
21 residence does not offer the curriculum that the student chooses to  
22 study shall be eligible for such scholarship at another New Jersey  
23 county college offering that curriculum. The amount of any  
24 scholarship allowed hereunder to a student at a county college  
25 serving a county other than the student's county of residence shall  
26 be computed as though the student were a resident of the county  
27 served by that college, and the college shall likewise compute the  
28 amount of any additional payment, required with respect to the  
29 enrollment of that student for credit hours of study during a  
30 semester in which the scholarship is awarded that are not covered  
31 by that scholarship, as though the student were a resident of the  
32 county.

33 b. A student shall be eligible for a scholarship under the NJ  
34 STARS Program for up to five semesters, including summer  
35 sessions. The scholarship shall be payable for the first year of  
36 enrollment in a county college to a student who:

37 (1) **[graduated]** has graduated high school and <sup>1</sup>in the case of a  
38 student who graduates in the 2013-2014 school year and thereafter,<sup>1</sup>  
39 whose class rank at the completion of the 11th grade <sup>1</sup>or 12th

**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 SHI committee amendments adopted May 5, 2014.

1 grade<sup>1</sup> was in the top 15.0% of the student's high school  
2 **【graduating】** class, provided that in the case of students graduating  
3 from high schools that do not calculate the class rank of their  
4 students, the student's ranking at the completion of the 11th grade  
5 'or 12th grade<sup>1</sup> shall be determined by the high school in  
6 consultation with the authority; and

7 (2) completed a rigorous high school course of study in  
8 accordance with standards established by the Secretary of Higher  
9 Education in consultation with the Commissioner of Education.

10 During a student's enrollment in a county college after the first  
11 year of enrollment, the scholarship shall be payable to that student  
12 if the student attains a grade point average of at least 3.0 by the start  
13 of the student's second year of county college enrollment. A  
14 student who attains a grade point average of less than 3.0 at the start  
15 of the second semester of the student's first year of county college  
16 enrollment shall participate in an enrichment program designed by  
17 the county college during the second semester of the student's first  
18 year of enrollment.

19 c. To be eligible to receive a scholarship under the NJ STARS  
20 Program a student shall:

21 (1) be a State resident pursuant to guidelines established by the  
22 authority. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1 of P.L.1979,  
23 c.361 (C.18A:62-4) or any other section of law to the contrary, a  
24 dependent child of a parent or guardian who has been transferred to  
25 a military installation located in this State shall be considered a  
26 resident of this State for the purposes of qualifying for an NJ  
27 STARS scholarship;

28 (2) have applied for all other available forms of State and  
29 federal need-based grants and merit scholarships, exclusive of  
30 loans, the full amount of which grants and scholarships shall be  
31 applied to tuition to reduce the amount of any scholarship that the  
32 student shall receive under the provisions of this act;

33 (3) except as otherwise provided pursuant to subsection a. of  
34 section 3 of P.L.2008, c.124 (C.18A:71B-85.2), be enrolled in a  
35 full-time course of study at a New Jersey county college;

36 (4) have graduated from high school in 2004 or later, and not  
37 earlier than the calendar year two years prior to the first calendar  
38 year in which a scholarship payment is to be made; and

39 (5) except as otherwise provided pursuant to subsection a. of  
40 section 3 of P.L.2008, c.124 (C.18A:71B-85.2), maintain  
41 continuous enrollment in a full-time course of study, unless on  
42 medical leave due to the illness of the student or a member of the  
43 student's immediate family or emergency leave because of a family  
44 emergency, which medical or emergency leave shall have been  
45 approved by the county college, or unless called to partial or full  
46 mobilization for State or federal active duty as a member of the  
47 National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the  
48 United States.

1 d. A student who is dismissed for academic or disciplinary  
2 reasons from a county college shall no longer be eligible for a  
3 scholarship under this act. If a student participating in the program  
4 is dismissed for disciplinary reasons, the student shall repay in full  
5 all amounts received under the program. The county college shall  
6 be responsible for collecting the repayment, or the amount of any  
7 overpayment or other improper payment, of any State awards under  
8 the program, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.18A:71B-  
9 10.

10 e. A student scholarship under the NJ STARS Program may be  
11 renewed upon the student's filing of a renewal financial aid  
12 application and providing evidence that the student has satisfied the  
13 requirements pursuant to subsection b. of this section.

14 (cf: P.L.2012, c.8, s.1)

15

16 2. Section 1 of P.L.2009, c.280 (C.18A:71B-85.5) is amended  
17 to read as follows:

18 1. a. In September of each school year, the board of education  
19 of a school district or the chief school administrator of a nonpublic  
20 school shall provide each student in the 9th grade with general  
21 information on the New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward  
22 Scholarship (NJ STARS) Program created pursuant to P.L.2004,  
23 c.59 (C.18A:71B-81 et seq.).

24 b. In September of each school year, the board of education of  
25 a school district or the chief school administrator of a nonpublic  
26 school shall notify each student in the 11th grade who is ranked in  
27 the top 25.0% of the class of his potential to qualify for the NJ  
28 STARS Program if the student's class rank at the **【time of high  
29 school graduation】** completion of the 11th grade <sup>1</sup>or 12th grade<sup>1</sup> is  
30 within the top 15.0% of the **【graduating】** class.

31 The notification shall include information about the rigorous  
32 course of study required to qualify for the program.

33 A student in the 12th grade shall be notified of conditional  
34 eligibility for the NJ STARS Program by the Higher Education  
35 Student Assistance Authority in accordance with the provisions of  
36 section 2 of P.L.2008, c.124 (C.18A:71B-85.1).

37 c. The notification by the board of education or chief school  
38 administrator required pursuant to subsections a. and b. of this  
39 section shall be communicated via regular or electronic mail or sent  
40 home with the student and include a brief description of the NJ  
41 STARS Program and the requirements for eligibility for the  
42 program.

43 (cf: P.L.2009, c.280, s.1)

44

45 <sup>1</sup>3. (New section) In the event that a student was notified of  
46 eligibility for a scholarship under the NJ STARS Program for the  
47 first year of enrollment in a county college in the 2013-2014  
48 academic year based on the student's class rank at the completion of

1 the 11th grade, the student shall be eligible for the scholarship in  
2 that academic year if the student meets the requirements of  
3 subsection c. of section 5 of P.L.2004, c.59 (C.18A:71B-85). The  
4 student shall be eligible for an NJ STARS scholarship after the first  
5 year of county college enrollment if the student attains a grade point  
6 average of at least 3.0 by the start of the student's second year of  
7 county college enrollment and if the student meets the requirements  
8 of subsection c. of section 5 of P.L.2004, c.59 (C.18A:71B-85).<sup>1</sup>  
9

10 <sup>1</sup>~~3~~ 4<sup>1</sup>. This act shall take effect immediately <sup>1</sup>~~and shall~~  
11 first be applicable to the first class of students entering the 9th  
12 grade following the effective date of this act<sup>1</sup>.  
13  
14

15 \_\_\_\_\_  
16  
17 Provides that eligibility for NJ STARS Program be based on  
18 class rank at completion of student's junior year or senior year of  
19 high school.

# ASSEMBLY, No. 2364

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 6, 2014

**Sponsored by:**

Assemblyman **DAVID W. WOLFE**

District 10 (Ocean)

Assemblywoman **PAMELA R. LAMPITT**

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

**Co-Sponsored by:**

Assemblyman **Diegnan**

**SYNOPSIS**

Provides that eligibility for NJ STARS Program be based on class rank at completion of student's junior year of high school.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/14/2014)

1 AN ACT concerning eligibility for the New Jersey Student Tuition  
2 Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS) Program and  
3 amending P.L.2004, c.59 and P.L.2009, c.280.

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

7  
8 1. Section 5 of P.L.2004, c.59 (C.18A:71B-85) is amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 5. a. A scholarship under the NJ STARS Program shall cover  
11 the full cost of tuition, subject to the prior application of other  
12 grants and scholarships against those costs as provided under  
13 paragraph (2) of subsection c. of this section, for up to 18 credit  
14 hours in any semester, for an eligible student enrolled in a full-time  
15 course of study at the New Jersey county college serving the  
16 student's county of residence. An otherwise eligible student who  
17 demonstrates to the authority, in accordance with such criteria and  
18 by means of such documentation as the authority shall establish by  
19 regulation, that the county college serving the student's county of  
20 residence does not offer the curriculum that the student chooses to  
21 study shall be eligible for such scholarship at another New Jersey  
22 county college offering that curriculum. The amount of any  
23 scholarship allowed hereunder to a student at a county college  
24 serving a county other than the student's county of residence shall  
25 be computed as though the student were a resident of the county  
26 served by that college, and the college shall likewise compute the  
27 amount of any additional payment, required with respect to the  
28 enrollment of that student for credit hours of study during a  
29 semester in which the scholarship is awarded that are not covered  
30 by that scholarship, as though the student were a resident of the  
31 county.

32 b. A student shall be eligible for a scholarship under the NJ  
33 STARS Program for up to five semesters, including summer  
34 sessions. The scholarship shall be payable for the first year of  
35 enrollment in a county college to a student who:

36 (1) **【graduated】** has graduated high school and whose class rank  
37 at the completion of the 11th grade was in the top 15.0% of the  
38 student's high school **【graduating】** class, provided that in the case  
39 of students graduating from high schools that do not calculate the  
40 class rank of their students, the student's ranking at the completion  
41 of the 11th grade shall be determined by the high school in  
42 consultation with the authority; and

43 (2) completed a rigorous high school course of study in  
44 accordance with standards established by the Secretary of Higher  
45 Education in consultation with the Commissioner of Education.

**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 During a student's enrollment in a county college after the first  
2 year of enrollment, the scholarship shall be payable to that student  
3 if the student attains a grade point average of at least 3.0 by the start  
4 of the student's second year of county college enrollment. A  
5 student who attains a grade point average of less than 3.0 at the start  
6 of the second semester of the student's first year of county college  
7 enrollment shall participate in an enrichment program designed by  
8 the county college during the second semester of the student's first  
9 year of enrollment.

10 c. To be eligible to receive a scholarship under the NJ STARS  
11 Program a student shall:

12 (1) be a State resident pursuant to guidelines established by the  
13 authority. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1 of P.L.1979,  
14 c.361 (C.18A:62-4) or any other section of law to the contrary, a  
15 dependent child of a parent or guardian who has been transferred to  
16 a military installation located in this State shall be considered a  
17 resident of this State for the purposes of qualifying for an NJ  
18 STARS scholarship;

19 (2) have applied for all other available forms of State and  
20 federal need-based grants and merit scholarships, exclusive of  
21 loans, the full amount of which grants and scholarships shall be  
22 applied to tuition to reduce the amount of any scholarship that the  
23 student shall receive under the provisions of this act;

24 (3) except as otherwise provided pursuant to subsection a. of  
25 section 3 of P.L.2008, c.124 (C.18A:71B-85.2), be enrolled in a  
26 full-time course of study at a New Jersey county college;

27 (4) have graduated from high school in 2004 or later, and not  
28 earlier than the calendar year two years prior to the first calendar  
29 year in which a scholarship payment is to be made; and

30 (5) except as otherwise provided pursuant to subsection a. of  
31 section 3 of P.L.2008, c.124 (C.18A:71B-85.2), maintain  
32 continuous enrollment in a full-time course of study, unless on  
33 medical leave due to the illness of the student or a member of the  
34 student's immediate family or emergency leave because of a family  
35 emergency, which medical or emergency leave shall have been  
36 approved by the county college, or unless called to partial or full  
37 mobilization for State or federal active duty as a member of the  
38 National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the  
39 United States.

40 d. A student who is dismissed for academic or disciplinary  
41 reasons from a county college shall no longer be eligible for a  
42 scholarship under this act. If a student participating in the program  
43 is dismissed for disciplinary reasons, the student shall repay in full  
44 all amounts received under the program. The county college shall  
45 be responsible for collecting the repayment, or the amount of any  
46 overpayment or other improper payment, of any State awards under  
47 the program, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.18A:71B-  
48 10.

1 e. A student scholarship under the NJ STARS Program may be  
2 renewed upon the student's filing of a renewal financial aid  
3 application and providing evidence that the student has satisfied the  
4 requirements pursuant to subsection b. of this section.

5 (cf: P.L.2012, c.8, s.1)

6  
7 2. Section 1 of P.L.2009, c.280 (C.18A:71B-85.5) is amended  
8 to read as follows:

9 1. a. In September of each school year, the board of education  
10 of a school district or the chief school administrator of a nonpublic  
11 school shall provide each student in the 9th grade with general  
12 information on the New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward  
13 Scholarship (NJ STARS) Program created pursuant to P.L.2004,  
14 c.59 (C.18A:71B-81 et seq.).

15 b. In September of each school year, the board of education of  
16 a school district or the chief school administrator of a nonpublic  
17 school shall notify each student in the 11th grade who is ranked in  
18 the top 25.0% of the class of his potential to qualify for the NJ  
19 STARS Program if the student's class rank at the **[time of high**  
20 **school graduation]** completion of the 11th grade is within the top  
21 15.0% of the **[graduating]** class.

22 The notification shall include information about the rigorous  
23 course of study required to qualify for the program.

24 A student in the 12th grade shall be notified of conditional  
25 eligibility for the NJ STARS Program by the Higher Education  
26 Student Assistance Authority in accordance with the provisions of  
27 section 2 of P.L.2008, c.124 (C.18A:71B-85.1).

28 c. The notification by the board of education or chief school  
29 administrator required pursuant to subsections a. and b. of this  
30 section shall be communicated via regular or electronic mail or sent  
31 home with the student and include a brief description of the NJ  
32 STARS Program and the requirements for eligibility for the  
33 program.

34 (cf: P.L.2009, c.280, s.1)

35  
36 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first be  
37 applicable to the first class of students entering the 9th grade  
38 following the effective date of this act.

39  
40  
41 STATEMENT

42  
43 Under current law, a student is eligible for the New Jersey  
44 Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS)  
45 Program if the student, among other things, is ranked within the top  
46 15% of the graduating class at the time of high school graduation.  
47 This bill would amend current law to provide that a student's class  
48 rank at the completion of the eleventh grade will determine

**A2364 WOLFE, LAMPITT**

5

1 eligibility for the NJ STARS Program, rather than a student's rank  
2 at the time of high school graduation. Under the bill, a student will  
3 be eligible for the NJ STARS Program if the student's class rank at  
4 the completion of the eleventh grade is within the top 15% of the  
5 student's class.

ASSEMBLY HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**ASSEMBLY, No. 2364**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 13, 2014

The Assembly Higher Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2364.

Under current law, a student is eligible for the New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS) Program if the student, among other things, is ranked within the top 15% of the graduating class at the time of high school graduation. This bill would amend current law to provide that a student's class rank at the completion of the eleventh grade will determine eligibility for the NJ STARS Program, rather than a student's rank at the time of high school graduation. Under the bill, a student will be eligible for the NJ STARS Program if the student's class rank at the completion of the eleventh grade is within the top 15% of the student's class.

# SENATE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **ASSEMBLY, No. 2364**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MAY 5, 2014

The Senate Higher Education Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2364 with committee amendments.

Under current law, a student is eligible for the New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS) Program if the student, among other things, is ranked within the top 15% of the graduating class at the time of high school graduation. As amended, this bill would revise current law to provide that a student's class rank at the completion of the 11th grade or 12th grade will determine eligibility for the NJ STARS Program. The provisions of the bill will first be applicable to students who graduate in the 2013-2014 school year.

This bill also provides that in the event that a student was notified of eligibility for a scholarship under the NJ STARS Program for the first year of enrollment in a county college in the 2013-2014 academic year based on the student's class rank at the completion of the 11th grade, the student will be eligible for the scholarship in that academic year if the student meets all other requirements for receipt of a scholarship.

The committee amended the bill to provide that a student may qualify for an NJ STARS award based on either 11th grade class rank or 12th grade class rank. This provision will first be applicable to students who graduate in the 2013-2014 school year. The amendments also provide an NJ STARS award to those students who had been notified that they would be eligible for a scholarship for the first year of county college enrollment in the 2013-2014 academic year based on their class rank at the end of the 11th grade.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 1985 with Senate committee amendments, which also was reported by the committee on this same date.

# SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 2364**

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MAY 19, 2014

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2364 (1R).

The bill would revise current law to provide that a student's class rank at the completion of the 11th grade or 12th grade will determine eligibility for the NJ STARS Program. Currently, a student is eligible for the New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS) Program if the student, among other things, is ranked within the top 15% of the graduating class at the time of high school graduation.

The provisions of the bill will first be applicable to students who graduate in the 2013-2014 school year.

This bill also provides that in the event that a student was notified of eligibility for a scholarship under the NJ STARS Program for the first year of enrollment in a county college in the 2013-2014 academic year based on the student's class rank at the completion of the 11th grade, the student will be eligible for the scholarship in that academic year if the student meets all other requirements for receipt of a scholarship.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 1985 (1R), as also reported by the committee on this same date.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill is not certified as requiring a fiscal note.

# SENATE, No. 1985

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED APRIL 28, 2014

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator DIANE B. ALLEN**

**District 7 (Burlington)**

**Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Senator M. TERESA RUIZ**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Provides that eligibility for NJ STARS Program be based on class rank at completion of student's junior year of high school.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/6/2014)**

1 AN ACT concerning eligibility for the New Jersey Student Tuition  
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3 amending P.L.2004, c.59 and P.L.2009, c.280.

4  
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
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7  
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9 read as follows:

10 5. a. A scholarship under the NJ STARS Program shall cover  
11 the full cost of tuition, subject to the prior application of other  
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13 paragraph (2) of subsection c. of this section, for up to 18 credit  
14 hours in any semester, for an eligible student enrolled in a full-time  
15 course of study at the New Jersey county college serving the  
16 student's county of residence. An otherwise eligible student who  
17 demonstrates to the authority, in accordance with such criteria and  
18 by means of such documentation as the authority shall establish by  
19 regulation, that the county college serving the student's county of  
20 residence does not offer the curriculum that the student chooses to  
21 study shall be eligible for such scholarship at another New Jersey  
22 county college offering that curriculum. The amount of any  
23 scholarship allowed hereunder to a student at a county college  
24 serving a county other than the student's county of residence shall  
25 be computed as though the student were a resident of the county  
26 served by that college, and the college shall likewise compute the  
27 amount of any additional payment, required with respect to the  
28 enrollment of that student for credit hours of study during a  
29 semester in which the scholarship is awarded that are not covered  
30 by that scholarship, as though the student were a resident of the  
31 county.

32 b. A student shall be eligible for a scholarship under the NJ  
33 STARS Program for up to five semesters, including summer  
34 sessions. The scholarship shall be payable for the first year of  
35 enrollment in a county college to a student who:

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37 at the completion of the 11th grade was in the top 15.0% of the  
38 student's high school **【graduating】** class, provided that in the case  
39 of students graduating from high schools that do not calculate the  
40 class rank of their students, the student's ranking at the completion  
41 of the 11th grade shall be determined by the high school in  
42 consultation with the authority; and

43 (2) completed a rigorous high school course of study in  
44 accordance with standards established by the Secretary of Higher  
45 Education in consultation with the Commissioner of Education.

**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 During a student's enrollment in a county college after the first  
2 year of enrollment, the scholarship shall be payable to that student  
3 if the student attains a grade point average of at least 3.0 by the start  
4 of the student's second year of county college enrollment. A  
5 student who attains a grade point average of less than 3.0 at the start  
6 of the second semester of the student's first year of county college  
7 enrollment shall participate in an enrichment program designed by  
8 the county college during the second semester of the student's first  
9 year of enrollment.

10 c. To be eligible to receive a scholarship under the NJ STARS  
11 Program a student shall:

12 (1) be a State resident pursuant to guidelines established by the  
13 authority. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1 of P.L.1979,  
14 c.361 (C.18A:62-4) or any other section of law to the contrary, a  
15 dependent child of a parent or guardian who has been transferred to  
16 a military installation located in this State shall be considered a  
17 resident of this State for the purposes of qualifying for an NJ  
18 STARS scholarship;

19 (2) have applied for all other available forms of State and  
20 federal need-based grants and merit scholarships, exclusive of  
21 loans, the full amount of which grants and scholarships shall be  
22 applied to tuition to reduce the amount of any scholarship that the  
23 student shall receive under the provisions of this act;

24 (3) except as otherwise provided pursuant to subsection a. of  
25 section 3 of P.L.2008, c.124 (C.18A:71B-85.2), be enrolled in a  
26 full-time course of study at a New Jersey county college;

27 (4) have graduated from high school in 2004 or later, and not  
28 earlier than the calendar year two years prior to the first calendar  
29 year in which a scholarship payment is to be made; and

30 (5) except as otherwise provided pursuant to subsection a. of  
31 section 3 of P.L.2008, c.124 (C.18A:71B-85.2), maintain  
32 continuous enrollment in a full-time course of study, unless on  
33 medical leave due to the illness of the student or a member of the  
34 student's immediate family or emergency leave because of a family  
35 emergency, which medical or emergency leave shall have been  
36 approved by the county college, or unless called to partial or full  
37 mobilization for State or federal active duty as a member of the  
38 National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the  
39 United States.

40 d. A student who is dismissed for academic or disciplinary  
41 reasons from a county college shall no longer be eligible for a  
42 scholarship under this act. If a student participating in the program  
43 is dismissed for disciplinary reasons, the student shall repay in full  
44 all amounts received under the program. The county college shall  
45 be responsible for collecting the repayment, or the amount of any  
46 overpayment or other improper payment, of any State awards under  
47 the program, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.18A:71B-  
48 10.

1 e. A student scholarship under the NJ STARS Program may be  
2 renewed upon the student's filing of a renewal financial aid  
3 application and providing evidence that the student has satisfied the  
4 requirements pursuant to subsection b. of this section.

5 (cf: P.L.2012, c.8, s.1)

6  
7 2. Section 1 of P.L.2009, c.280 (C.18A:71B-85.5) is amended  
8 to read as follows:

9 1. a. In September of each school year, the board of education  
10 of a school district or the chief school administrator of a nonpublic  
11 school shall provide each student in the 9th grade with general  
12 information on the New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward  
13 Scholarship (NJ STARS) Program created pursuant to P.L.2004,  
14 c.59 (C.18A:71B-81 et seq.).

15 b. In September of each school year, the board of education of  
16 a school district or the chief school administrator of a nonpublic  
17 school shall notify each student in the 11th grade who is ranked in  
18 the top 25.0% of the class of his potential to qualify for the NJ  
19 STARS Program if the student's class rank at the **[time of high**  
20 **school graduation]** completion of the 11th grade is within the top  
21 15.0% of the **[graduating]** class.

22 The notification shall include information about the rigorous  
23 course of study required to qualify for the program.

24 A student in the 12th grade shall be notified of conditional  
25 eligibility for the NJ STARS Program by the Higher Education  
26 Student Assistance Authority in accordance with the provisions of  
27 section 2 of P.L.2008, c.124 (C.18A:71B-85.1).

28 c. The notification by the board of education or chief school  
29 administrator required pursuant to subsections a. and b. of this  
30 section shall be communicated via regular or electronic mail or sent  
31 home with the student and include a brief description of the NJ  
32 STARS Program and the requirements for eligibility for the  
33 program.

34 (cf: P.L.2009, c.280, s.1)

35  
36 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first be  
37 applicable to the first class of students entering the 9th grade  
38 following the effective date of this act.

39  
40  
41 STATEMENT

42  
43 Under current law, a student is eligible for the New Jersey  
44 Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS)  
45 Program if the student, among other things, is ranked within the top  
46 15% of the graduating class at the time of high school graduation.  
47 This bill would amend current law to provide that a student's class  
48 rank at the completion of the eleventh grade will determine

**S1985 ALLEN, CUNNINGHAM**

5

1 eligibility for the NJ STARS Program, rather than a student's rank  
2 at the time of high school graduation. Under the bill, a student will  
3 be eligible for the NJ STARS Program if the student's class rank at  
4 the completion of the eleventh grade is within the top 15% of the  
5 student's class.

# SENATE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **SENATE, No. 1985**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MAY 5, 2014

The Senate Higher Education Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1985 with committee amendments.

Under current law, a student is eligible for the New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS) Program if the student, among other things, is ranked within the top 15% of the graduating class at the time of high school graduation. As amended, this bill would revise current law to provide that a student's class rank at the completion of the 11th grade or 12th grade will determine eligibility for the NJ STARS Program. The provisions of the bill will first be applicable to students who graduate in the 2013-2014 school year.

This bill also provides that in the event that a student was notified of eligibility for a scholarship under the NJ STARS Program for the first year of enrollment in a county college in the 2013-2014 academic year based on the student's class rank at the completion of the 11th grade, the student will be eligible for the scholarship in that academic year if the student meets all other requirements for receipt of a scholarship.

The committee amended the bill to provide that a student may qualify for an NJ STARS award based on either 11th grade class rank or 12th grade class rank. This provision will first be applicable to students who graduate in the 2013-2014 school year. The amendments also provide an NJ STARS award to those students who had been notified that they would be eligible for a scholarship for the first year of county college enrollment in the 2013-2014 academic year based on their class rank at the end of the 11th grade.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 2364 with Senate committee amendments, which also was reported by the committee on this same date.

# SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

**SENATE, No. 1985**

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MAY 19, 2014

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1985 (1R).

The bill would revise current law to provide that a student's class rank at the completion of the 11th grade or 12th grade will determine eligibility for the NJ STARS Program. Currently, a student is eligible for the New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS) Program if the student, among other things, is ranked within the top 15% of the graduating class at the time of high school graduation.

The provisions of the bill will first be applicable to students who graduate in the 2013-2014 school year.

This bill also provides that in the event that a student was notified of eligibility for a scholarship under the NJ STARS Program for the first year of enrollment in a county college in the 2013-2014 academic year based on the student's class rank at the completion of the 11th grade, the student will be eligible for the scholarship in that academic year if the student meets all other requirements for receipt of a scholarship.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 2364 (1R), as also reported by the committee on this same date.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill is not certified as requiring a fiscal note.