

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

WJSA 18A:71-77 and 18A:71-78 (Scholarship program - Widows and children of firemen, first aid and rescue killed in line of duty)
LAWS OF 1979 CHAPTER 229

Bill No. S81

Sponsor(s) J. Russo and Parker

Date Introduced Pre-filed

Committee: Assembly Education

Senate Education

Amended during passage Yes Amendments during passage denoted by asterisks

Date of Passage: Assembly May 21, 1979

Senate May 10, 1979

Date of approval Oct. 13, 1979

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement	Yes	Yes (Below)
Committee Statement: Assembly	Yes	No
Senate	Yes	Yes
Fiscal Note	Yes	No
Veto message	Yes	No
Message on signing	Yes	Yes

Following were printed:

Reports	Yes	No
Hearings	Yes	No

Sponsor's statement:

This bill provides a scholarship program for children of members or officers of county police, municipal police and fire departments and volunteer fire companies, which members were killed in the performance of their duties.

8/1/78
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S-13-79

[SECOND OFFICIAL COPY REPRINT]

SENATE, No. 81

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1978 SESSION

By Senators J. RUSSO and PARKER

AN ACT concerning education, providing scholarships for children
and widowed spouses of police, firemen and first aid or
 rescue squad workers in certain cases 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. Any child ***or widowed spouse*** of a member or officer of a
 2 volunteer fire company, volunteer first aid or rescue squad or
 3 municipal fire, police, county police or park police department**,
 4 *State Fire Service** or of the Division of State Police**, which
 5 member or officer was killed in the performance of his duties as a
 6 member of such company, squad or fire or police department **or*
 7 *division**, upon such ****[child's]**** ***child or widowed spouse***
 8 being accepted to pursue a course of undergraduate study in any
 9 public institution of higher education of this State as enumerated
 10 in N. J. S. 18A:62-1, shall ***[be allowed to obtain a bachelor's**
 11 **degree, or certificate of completion, for as long as he is eligible,**
 12 **free of tuition.]****, *while enrolled as an undergraduate student in*
 13 *good standing at such college, have his tuition paid by the State.*

14 *Eligibility for this program shall be limited to a period of 8*
 15 *years***, *from the date of death of the member or officer, in the case*
 16 *of a widowed spouse, and 8 years** following graduation from high*
 17 *school***, *in the case of a child** pursuant to rules and regulations*
 18 *established by the State Board of Higher Education.**

1 ***[2. The Board of Higher Education shall promulgate rules and**
 2 **regulations for the implementation of this act.]****

3 **2. There shall be appropriated to the Department of Higher*
 4 *Education in any general or supplemental appropriation act such*
 5 *sums as shall be necessary to carry out the purposes of this act.**

1 3. This act shall take effect January 1 next following enactment*;
 2 *however, no tuition award shall be granted prior to September 1*
 3 *next ensuing*.*

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

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 81

with Senate committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: APRIL 26, 1979

PROVISIONS:

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports this bill which provides for a tuition waiver policy at New Jersey Public Institutions for children of public safety officers killed in the line of duty.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

It is estimated that there would be a potential maximum first year cost of \$55,000.00.

This would be partially offset as a result of a decrease in demand for State Tuition Aid Grants (TAG).

BACKGROUND:

1. Since the State TAG program covers only tuition, these children would not be eligible for a TAG grant. If they did have unmet need they could receive a Garden State Scholarship if eligible and a Federal Basic Educational Opportunity Grant.

2. Tuition Waivers are provided for other classes of individuals—without additional State appropriations:

- a. Senior citizens;
- b. Non-teaching professionals; and
- c. Children of faculty members.

In addition, out-of-state fees are waived for certain foreign nationals (N. J. A. C. 9:5-1.3).

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee adopted amendments identical to those proposed by the Assembly Education Committee to Assembly No. 381 after consultation with the State Department of Higher Education. They would:

1. Include children of State Police Officers;
2. Limit the eligibility period to 8 years after completion of high school; and

3. Authorize an appropriation.

In addition, the enactment clause should be amended to allow for coordination with the academic calendar and the appropriation process, as follows:

“This act shall take effect January 1 next following enactment; however, no tuition award shall be granted prior to September 1 next ensuing.”

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCTOBER 12, 1979

PRESS ADVISORY

Acting Governor Joseph P. Merlino will sign S-81, sponsored by Senator John F. Russo (D-Ocean), at the Lakehurst Naval Air Station as part of a Memorial Service for Ocean County Firemen at 11:00 a.m. tomorrow.

The bill provides for the State to pay the tuition cost for the undergraduate study at New Jersey public institutions of higher education of the children and widowed spouses of members or officers of State, county or municipal police and fire departments killed in the performance of their duties.

The bill restricts the tuition waiver program to eight years following graduation from high school in the case of a child and eight years following the date of the death of a member or officers of a fire or police department in the case of a widowed spouse..

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