

18A: 71-74

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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Laws of 1975 Chapter 351

Bill No. S 3051

Sponsor(s) Merlino

Date Introduced February 13, 1975

Committee: Assembly -----
Education
Senate -----

Amended during passage Yes Amendments during passage denoted by asterisks

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Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement Yes

Committee Statement: Assembly No

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Fiscal Note No

Veto message No

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Following were printed:

Reports No

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SENATE, No. 3051

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 1975

By Senator MERLINO

Referred to Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the "New Jersey Higher Education Tuition Aid Act," approved February 11, 1969 (P. L. 1968, c. 429).

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

1 1. Section 7 of P. L. 1968, c. 429 (C. 18A:71-47) is amended to
2 read as follows:

2A 7. A college tuition aid grant shall be awarded annually to each
2B eligible, qualified full-time student enrolled in a curriculum leading
3 to a degree in an institution of collegiate grade in New Jersey
4 approved or accredited by the State Board of Higher Education in
5 accordance with the following:

6 (a) Eligibility. To each full-time resident student registered as
7 a freshman after September 1, 1968, as a freshman or sophomore
8 after September 1, 1969, as a freshman, sophomore or junior after
9 September 1, 1970, and as a freshman, sophomore, junior or senior
10 student after September 1971, the State shall grant an amount as
11 provided in paragraph (b) of this section 7. No student shall be
12 eligible for a grant unless he has certified in a form satisfactory
13 to the scholarship commission that the grant is essential to his
14 carrying out his plans for attending college. No student shall be
15 eligible for grants in more than the equivalent of eight semesters
16 of undergraduate education. No student shall be eligible for grants
17 unless he maintains such minimum standards of academic perform-
18 ance as are required by the institution in which he is enrolled. No
19 student shall be eligible for a tuition aid grant who is enrolled
20 in a course of study leading to a degree in theology, divinity or
21 religious education.

22 In the event a student for any reason ceases to continue to be
23 enrolled or otherwise becomes ineligible during the course of an
24 academic year, he shall cease to be eligible for tuition aid.

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

25 (b) Amount of grant. The amount of tuition aid grant to any
 26 student under this act for any semester shall not exceed the amount
 27 of tuition normally charged a student at the institution of attend-
 28 ance less **[\$225.00]** \$400.00. The maximum tuition aid grant to any
 29 one student in 1 academic year shall not exceed \$1,000.00.

30 No recipient of a State competitive scholarship shall receive
 31 any tuition aid grant for any academic period for which he has
 32 been awarded a State competitive scholarship.

33 The amount of grant to be paid for each semester or equivalent
 34 shall be based on the figure represented by the effective income of
 35 the eligible student together with the effective income of the parent
 36 or parents providing a majority of the eligible student's support,
 37 *pursuant to the schedule set forth below, provided, however, that*
 38 *the State Scholarship Commission shall, at least once a year, revise*
 39 *the said schedule of effective income according to changes in the*
 40 *cost of living as reflected in the Consumer Price Index for Urban*
 41 *Wage Earners and Clerical Workers in northeastern New Jersey,*
 42 *published by the United States Department of Labor or in such*
 43 *other index or indices as the said State Scholarship Commission*
 44 *may designate.*

45 "Effective income" of the eligible student and his parents shall
 46 be defined as total income subject to Federal income tax less per-
 47 sonal dependent exemptions and standard or itemized deductions
 48 as eligible under Federal income tax regulations pursuant to the
 49 United States Internal Revenue Code as amended with a further
 50 allowance of \$400.00 for each dependent, *except that "effective*
 51 *income" of the eligible student shall not include more than one-half*
 52 *of his earnings from employment during the year for which the*
 53 *"effective income" is determined.*

54 The following schedule shall be used for determining grants:

Effective Income	Amount of Grant Each Semester
55 [-0- - \$5,000.00	\$500.00
56 \$5,001.00-\$6,000.00	\$400.00
57 \$6,001.00-\$7,000.00	\$300.00
58 \$7,001.00-\$8,000.00	\$200.00
59 \$8,001.00-\$9,000.00	\$100.00
60 Over \$9,000.00	-0-]
61 -0- - \$7,500.00	*[\$1,000.00]* *\$500.00*
62 \$7,501.00- \$9,000.00	*[\$800.00]* *\$400.00*
63 \$9,001.00-\$10,500.00	*[\$600.00]* *\$300.00*
64 \$10,501.00-\$12,000.00	*[\$400.00]* *\$200.00*
65 \$12,001.00-\$13,500.00	*[\$200.00]* *\$100.00*
66 Over *[\$13,501.00]* *\$13,500.00*	-0-

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill revises the Tuition-Aid Act to make four changes. First, in recognition of the fact that tuition fees are substantially higher now than they were when the 1968 law was enacted, the bill increases the amount that may not be covered by a tuition-aid grant from \$225.00 to \$400.00.

It substantially revises the aid schedule upward, and further stipulates that this statutory schedule be automatically revised each year to reflect consumer price index changes, measured by the price standards of northeastern New Jersey.

In addition, the bill exempts half a student's own summer and term-line earnings from the "effective income" that determines the size of the grant. The intent is to shield a portion of a student's personal earnings from what is effectively a tuition "tax." Under the bill's revised schedule, that could be a \$200.00 reduction in aid as a result of \$100.00 in the student's earnings if those earnings put him into the next bracket. But since a student does have an obvious interest in his own education and should be expected to contribute to paying these costs, half his own earnings would still be counted as "effective income."