



**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:** No

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:** Yes

**VETO MESSAGE:** No

**GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:** Yes

**FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:**

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**REPORTS:** No

**HEARINGS:** No

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:** No

RWH/JA

Title 18A.  
Subtitle 12A.  
Part 3.  
Article 6.(New)  
Tuition  
Reimbursement  
§§1-7 -  
C.18A:71C-59 to  
18A:71C-65

(CORRECTED COPY)

P.L.2017, CHAPTER 126, *approved July 21, 2017*

Senate, No. 2331 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT establishing a tuition reimbursement program for certain  
2 psychiatrists who work in New Jersey and supplementing chapter  
3 71C of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.  
4

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

7  
8 1. As used in this act:

9 “Authority” means the Higher Education Student Assistance  
10 Authority.

11 “Eligible tuition expenses” means tuition expenses that were  
12 incurred by a program participant in attending an accredited  
13 medical school and which were not covered by any grants or  
14 scholarships.

15 “Program” means the tuition reimbursement program for  
16 psychiatrists established pursuant to this act.

17 “Program participant” means a psychiatrist who contracts with  
18 the authority to provide mental health care services in a State  
19 underserved area <sup>1</sup>or in a State psychiatric hospital<sup>1</sup> in return for  
20 tuition reimbursement provided under the program.

21 <sup>1</sup>“State psychiatric hospital” means a State psychiatric hospital  
22 operated by the Department of Human Services and listed in  
23 R.S.30:1-7.<sup>1</sup>

24 “State underserved area” means a geographic area in this State  
25 which the Commissioner of Health <sup>1</sup>, in consultation with the  
26 Commissioner of Human Services,<sup>1</sup> determines on the basis of  
27 health status and economic indicators as having a physician  
28 shortage in the specialty of psychiatry.  
29

30 2. a. There is established in the Higher Education Student  
31 Assistance Authority a tuition reimbursement program for

**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>Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted December 15, 2016.

1 psychiatrists who provide mental health care services in a State  
2 underserved area <sup>1</sup>or in a State psychiatric hospital<sup>1</sup>. The program  
3 shall provide reimbursement to program participants for a portion of  
4 the eligible tuition expenses incurred by the participant in attending  
5 medical school.

6 b. A program participant shall enter into a contract with the  
7 authority for a specified number of one-year periods of service, up  
8 to four years, in which the participant agrees to engage in the full-  
9 time practice of psychiatry in a State underserved area <sup>1</sup>or in a State  
10 psychiatric hospital<sup>1</sup>. The agreement shall specify the program  
11 participant's dates of required service and the total amount of  
12 reimbursement of eligible tuition expenses to be received by the  
13 participant in return for service.

14 c. The tuition reimbursement for a participant under the  
15 program shall equal 25 percent of the participant's eligible tuition  
16 expenses for the one academic year of medical school attendance in  
17 which tuition was the lowest, in return for each full year of service  
18 satisfactorily completed by the participant under the program. The  
19 total tuition reimbursement amount for a program participant, for  
20 four full years of service, shall not exceed 100 percent of the  
21 participant's eligible tuition expenses for the one academic year of  
22 medical school attendance in which tuition was the lowest.

23

24 3. To be eligible to participate in the program, an applicant  
25 shall:

26 a. be a resident of New Jersey;

27 b. be a State-licensed physician who has successfully  
28 completed all educational and residency training requirements for  
29 the practice of psychiatry;

30 c. apply for the program within one year of completing an  
31 accredited residency training program in psychiatry <sup>1</sup>, or within one  
32 year of completing an accredited fellowship in child and adolescent  
33 psychiatry<sup>1</sup>; and

34 d. agree to practice full-time as a psychiatrist in a State  
35 underserved area <sup>1</sup>or in a State psychiatric hospital<sup>1</sup> for a period of  
36 one to four years in return for the tuition reimbursement provided  
37 under the program.

38

39 4. a. The Commissioner of Health <sup>1</sup>, in consultation with the  
40 Commissioner of Human Services,<sup>1</sup> shall designate State  
41 underserved areas which have a shortage of psychiatrists. In  
42 designating State underserved areas, the commissioner shall  
43 consider health status criteria and economic indicators including,  
44 but not limited to, the financial resources of the population who  
45 resides in the area under consideration, and the population's access  
46 to mental health care services.

1       b. The Commissioner of Health shall transmit to the authority a  
2 list of the State underserved areas and the projected number of  
3 psychiatrists needed in each area.

4       <sup>1</sup>c. The Commissioner of Human Services shall transmit to the  
5 authority a list of the State psychiatric hospitals and the projected  
6 number of psychiatrists needed in each hospital.<sup>1</sup>

7  
8       5. The contract entered into between a program participant and  
9 the authority pursuant to section 2 of this act shall require a  
10 program participant to:

11       a. charge for professional services at the usual and customary  
12 rate prevailing in the State underserved area, but allow a patient  
13 who is unable to pay that charge to pay at a reduced rate or receive  
14 care at no charge;

15       b. not discriminate against any patient in the provision of  
16 mental health care services on the basis of that person's ability to  
17 pay or source of payment; and

18       c. agree not to impose any charge in excess of the limiting fee  
19 for a service, as determined by the United States Secretary of  
20 Health and Human Services, to a recipient of benefits under the  
21 federal Medicare program established pursuant to Pub.L.89-97 (42  
22 U.S.C. s.1395 et seq.).

23  
24       6. A program participant, as a condition of participation, shall  
25 be required to adhere to performance standards established by the  
26 authority. The standards shall include, but not be limited to,  
27 requirements that a program participant:

28       a. maintain residency in the State;

29       b. maintain a license to practice medicine in the State;

30       c. remain current with payments on any student loans;

31       d. maintain satisfactory performance of services rendered in a  
32 State underserved area <sup>1</sup>or in a State psychiatric hospital<sup>1</sup>; and

33       e. report to the authority, on a form and in a manner prescribed  
34 by the authority, on the program participant's performance of  
35 services rendered prior to reimbursement of tuition under the  
36 program.

37  
38       7. An individual who is participating in the Primary Care  
39 Practitioner Loan Redemption Program, N.J.S.18A:71C-32 et seq.,  
40 or in the federally administered National Health Service Corps Loan  
41 Repayment Program, section 338B of the Public Health Service Act  
42 (42 U.S.C. s.2541-1), shall not be eligible to participate  
43 simultaneously in the tuition reimbursement program established  
44 pursuant to this act.

45  
46       8. The authority shall promulgate regulations pursuant to the  
47 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et  
48 seq.), necessary to effectuate the provisions of this act.

**S2331 [1R]**

4

1       9. This act shall take effect immediately.

2

3

4

5

6       Establishes tuition reimbursement program for certain  
7       psychiatrists who work in underserved areas or psychiatric hospitals  
8       in New Jersey.

# SENATE, No. 2331

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 9, 2016

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator RICHARD J. CODEY**

**District 27 (Essex and Morris)**

**Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE**

**District 19 (Middlesex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Cunningham, Ruiz and Gordon**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes tuition reimbursement program for certain psychiatrists who work in underserved areas in New Jersey.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 7/1/2016)**

1 AN ACT establishing a tuition reimbursement program for certain  
2 psychiatrists who work in New Jersey and supplementing chapter  
3 71C of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

7  
8 1. As used in this act:

9 “Authority” means the Higher Education Student Assistance  
10 Authority.

11 “Eligible tuition expenses” means tuition expenses that were  
12 incurred by a program participant in attending an accredited  
13 medical school and which were not covered by any grants or  
14 scholarships.

15 “Program” means the tuition reimbursement program for  
16 psychiatrists established pursuant to this act.

17 “Program participant” means a psychiatrist who contracts with  
18 the authority to provide mental health care services in a State  
19 underserved area in return for tuition reimbursement provided under  
20 the program.

21 “State underserved area” means a geographic area in this State  
22 which the Commissioner of Health determines on the basis of health  
23 status and economic indicators as having a physician shortage in the  
24 specialty of psychiatry.

25  
26 2. a. There is established in the Higher Education Student  
27 Assistance Authority a tuition reimbursement program for  
28 psychiatrists who provide mental health care services in a State  
29 underserved area. The program shall provide reimbursement to  
30 program participants for a portion of the eligible tuition expenses  
31 incurred by the participant in attending medical school.

32 b. A program participant shall enter into a contract with the  
33 authority for a specified number of one-year periods of service, up  
34 to four years, in which the participant agrees to engage in the full-  
35 time practice of psychiatry in a State underserved area. The  
36 agreement shall specify the program participant’s dates of required  
37 service and the total amount of reimbursement of eligible tuition  
38 expenses to be received by the participant in return for service.

39 c. The tuition reimbursement for a participant under the  
40 program shall equal 25 percent of the participant’s eligible tuition  
41 expenses for the one academic year of medical school attendance in  
42 which tuition was the lowest, in return for each full year of service  
43 satisfactorily completed by the participant under the program. The  
44 total tuition reimbursement amount for a program participant, for  
45 four full years of service, shall not exceed 100 percent of the  
46 participant’s eligible tuition expenses for the one academic year of  
47 medical school attendance in which tuition was the lowest.



1 3. To be eligible to participate in the program, an applicant  
2 shall:

- 3 a. be a resident of New Jersey;  
4 b. be a State-licensed physician who has successfully  
5 completed all educational and residency training requirements for  
6 the practice of psychiatry;  
7 c. apply for the program within one year of completing an  
8 accredited residency training program in psychiatry; and  
9 d. agree to practice full-time as a psychiatrist in a State  
10 underserved area for a period of one to four years in return for the  
11 tuition reimbursement provided under the program.

12  
13 4. a. The Commissioner of Health shall designate State  
14 underserved areas which have a shortage of psychiatrists. In  
15 designating State underserved areas, the commissioner shall  
16 consider health status criteria and economic indicators including,  
17 but not limited to, the financial resources of the population who  
18 resides in the area under consideration, and the population's access  
19 to mental health care services.

20 b. The Commissioner of Health shall transmit to the authority a  
21 list of the State underserved areas and the projected number of  
22 psychiatrists needed in each area.

23  
24 5. The contract entered into between a program participant and  
25 the authority pursuant to section 2 of this act shall require a  
26 program participant to:

27 a. charge for professional services at the usual and customary  
28 rate prevailing in the State underserved area, but allow a patient  
29 who is unable to pay that charge to pay at a reduced rate or receive  
30 care at no charge;

31 b. not discriminate against any patient in the provision of  
32 mental health care services on the basis of that person's ability to  
33 pay or source of payment; and

34 c. agree not to impose any charge in excess of the limiting fee  
35 for a service, as determined by the United States Secretary of  
36 Health and Human Services, to a recipient of benefits under the  
37 federal Medicare program established pursuant to Pub.L.89-97 (42  
38 U.S.C. s.1395 et seq.).

39  
40 6. A program participant, as a condition of participation, shall  
41 be required to adhere to performance standards established by the  
42 authority. The standards shall include, but not be limited to,  
43 requirements that a program participant:

- 44 a. maintain residency in the State;  
45 b. maintain a license to practice medicine in the State;  
46 c. remain current with payments on any student loans;  
47 d. maintain satisfactory performance of services rendered in a  
48 State underserved area; and

1 e. report to the authority, on a form and in a manner prescribed  
2 by the authority, on the program participant's performance of  
3 services rendered prior to reimbursement of tuition under the  
4 program.

5  
6 7. An individual who is participating in the Primary Care  
7 Practitioner Loan Redemption Program, N.J.S.18A:71C-32 et seq.,  
8 or in the federally administered National Health Service Corps Loan  
9 Repayment Program, section 338B of the Public Health Service Act  
10 (42 U.S.C. s.2541-1), shall not be eligible to participate  
11 simultaneously in the tuition reimbursement program established  
12 pursuant to this act.

13  
14 8. The authority shall promulgate regulations pursuant to the  
15 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et  
16 seq.), necessary to effectuate the provisions of this act.

17  
18 9. This act shall take effect immediately.

19  
20  
21 STATEMENT

22  
23 This bill establishes a tuition reimbursement program for  
24 psychiatrists to address a shortage of mental health care access in  
25 certain areas of the State.

26 Under the bill, the Commissioner of Health will designate, on the  
27 basis of health status and economic indicators, geographic areas of  
28 the State which have a shortage of physicians in the specialty of  
29 psychiatry. The program will provide reimbursement of a portion  
30 of medical school tuition expenses to psychiatrists who agree to  
31 provide mental health care services in one of these State  
32 underserved areas for a period of one to four years. Program  
33 participants must: (1) be State residents; (2) be State-licensed  
34 physicians who have completed all educational and residency  
35 training requirements for the practice of psychiatry; and (3) apply  
36 for the program within one year of completing an accredited  
37 residency program in psychiatry.

38 Program participants will enter into a contract with the Higher  
39 Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) for a specified  
40 number of one-year periods of service, up to four years, in which  
41 the participant agrees to engage in the full-time practice of  
42 psychiatry in a State underserved area. In return for this  
43 commitment, a portion of the participant's tuition expenses in  
44 attending medical school will be reimbursed. Tuition  
45 reimbursement will equal 25 percent of the participant's eligible  
46 tuition expenses for the one academic year of medical school  
47 attendance in which tuition was the lowest, in return for each full  
48 year of service under the program. The maximum total tuition

**S2331 CODEY, VITALE**

5

1 reimbursement for a participant for four years of service will be 100  
2 percent of the participant's eligible tuition expenses for the one  
3 academic year of medical school attendance in which tuition was  
4 the lowest.

5 Under the bill, participants in the program will be required to  
6 adhere to certain terms and standards, including charging for  
7 professional services at the usual and customary rates, allowing  
8 patients who are unable to pay that charge to pay a reduced rate or  
9 receive care at no charge, and not discriminating against any patient  
10 on the basis of ability to pay. Participants will also be required to  
11 maintain their State residency and medical license, remain current  
12 with payments on any student loans, maintain satisfactory  
13 performance of services, and report to HESAA on the performance  
14 of services rendered prior to receiving tuition reimbursement.

# ASSEMBLY HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### SENATE, No. 2331

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: SEPTEMBER 8, 2016

The Assembly Higher Education Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2331.

This bill establishes a tuition reimbursement program for psychiatrists to address a shortage of mental health care access in certain areas of the State.

Under the bill, the Commissioner of Health will designate, on the basis of health status and economic indicators, geographic areas of the State which have a shortage of physicians in the specialty of psychiatry. The program will provide reimbursement of a portion of medical school tuition expenses to psychiatrists who agree to provide mental health care services in one of these State underserved areas for a period of one to four years. Program participants must: (1) be State residents; (2) be State-licensed physicians who have completed all educational and residency training requirements for the practice of psychiatry; and (3) apply for the program within one year of completing an accredited residency program in psychiatry.

Program participants will enter into a contract with the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) for a specified number of one-year periods of service, up to four years, in which the participant agrees to engage in the full-time practice of psychiatry in a State underserved area. In return for this commitment, a portion of the participant's tuition expenses in attending medical school will be reimbursed. Tuition reimbursement will equal 25 percent of the participant's eligible tuition expenses for the one academic year of medical school attendance in which tuition was the lowest, in return for each full year of service under the program. The maximum total tuition reimbursement for a participant for four years of service will be 100 percent of the participant's eligible tuition expenses for the one academic year of medical school attendance in which tuition was the lowest.

Under the bill, participants in the program will be required to adhere to certain terms and standards, including charging for professional services at the usual and customary rates, allowing patients who are unable to pay that charge to pay a reduced rate or receive care at no charge, and not discriminating against any patient on the basis of ability to pay. Participants will also be required to maintain their State residency and medical license, remain current with payments on any student loans, maintain satisfactory performance of

services, and report to HESAA on the performance of services rendered prior to receiving tuition reimbursement.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 3962, which was also reported by the committee on this same date.

# ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **SENATE, No. 2331**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: DECEMBER 15, 2016

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2331, with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill establishes a tuition reimbursement program for psychiatrists, including child and adolescent psychiatrists, to address a shortage of mental health care access in certain areas of the State and a shortage of psychiatrists in State psychiatric hospitals.

The bill provides that the Commissioner of Health designate, in consultation with the Commissioner of Human Services, on the basis of health status and economic indicators, geographic areas of the State which have a shortage of physicians in the specialty of psychiatry, and that the Commissioner of Human Services indicate the State psychiatric hospitals that have a shortage of psychiatrists. The program will provide reimbursement of a portion of medical school tuition expenses to psychiatrists who agree to provide mental health care services in one of these State underserved areas or State psychiatric hospitals for a period of one to four years. Program participants must: (1) be State residents; (2) be State-licensed physicians who have completed all educational and residency training requirements for the practice of psychiatry; and (3) apply for the program within one year of completing an accredited residency program in psychiatry or an accredited fellowship in child and adolescent psychiatry.

The bill provides that program participants enter into a contract with the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) for a specified number of one-year periods of service, up to four years, in which the participant agrees to engage in the full-time practice of psychiatry in a State underserved area or a State psychiatric hospital. In return for this commitment, a portion of the participant's tuition expenses in attending medical school will be reimbursed. Tuition reimbursement will equal 25 percent of the participant's eligible tuition expenses for the one academic year of medical school attendance in which tuition was the lowest, in return for each full year of service under the program. The maximum total tuition reimbursement for a participant for four years of service will be 100 percent of the participant's eligible tuition expenses for the one

academic year of medical school attendance in which tuition was the lowest.

The bill requires that a participant in the program serving in a State designated underserved area adhere to certain terms and standards, including charging for professional services at the usual and customary rates, allowing patients who are unable to pay that charge to pay a reduced rate or receive care at no charge, and not discriminating against any patient on the basis of ability to pay. All program participants will be required to maintain their State residency and medical license, remain current with payments on any student loans, maintain satisfactory performance of services, and report to HESAA on the performance of services rendered prior to receiving tuition reimbursement.

As amended and reported, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 3962, as also amended and reported by the committee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative services is not able to provide an estimate of the costs of tuition reimbursement payments under the program. Program costs will be dependent upon the number of physicians with a specialty in psychiatry who apply to participate in the program, the amount of tuition for the one academic year of medical school attendance in which tuition was the lowest for each program participant, and the number of years in which a physician participates in the program.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The amendments 1) allow a psychiatrist who is working in a State psychiatric hospital to participate in the tuition reimbursement program; 2) provide that the Commissioner of Health will consult with the Commissioner of Human Services in the designation of State underserved areas; 3) direct the Commissioner of Human Services to transmit a list to the authority of the State psychiatric hospitals and the projected number of psychiatrists needed in each hospital; and 4) provide that a psychiatrist may also apply for the tuition reimbursement program within one year of completing an accredited fellowship in child and adolescent psychiatry. The bill in its original form required a psychiatrist to apply within one year of completing an accredited residency training program in psychiatry.

# SENATE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### SENATE, No. 2331

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 20, 2016

The Senate Higher Education Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2331.

This bill establishes a tuition reimbursement program for psychiatrists to address a shortage of mental health care access in certain areas of the State.

Under the bill, the Commissioner of Health will designate, on the basis of health status and economic indicators, geographic areas of the State which have a shortage of physicians in the specialty of psychiatry. The program will provide reimbursement of a portion of medical school tuition expenses to psychiatrists who agree to provide mental health care services in one of these State underserved areas for a period of one to four years. Program participants must: (1) be State residents; (2) be State-licensed physicians who have completed all educational and residency training requirements for the practice of psychiatry; and (3) apply for the program within one year of completing an accredited residency program in psychiatry.

Program participants will enter into a contract with the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) for a specified number of one-year periods of service, up to four years, in which the participant agrees to engage in the full-time practice of psychiatry in a State underserved area. In return for this commitment, a portion of the participant's tuition expenses in attending medical school will be reimbursed. Tuition reimbursement will equal 25 percent of the participant's eligible tuition expenses for the one academic year of medical school attendance in which tuition was the lowest, in return for each full year of service under the program. The maximum total tuition reimbursement for a participant for four years of service will be 100 percent of the participant's eligible tuition expenses for the one academic year of medical school attendance in which tuition was the lowest.

Under the bill, participants in the program will be required to adhere to certain terms and standards, including charging for professional services at the usual and customary rates, allowing patients who are unable to pay that charge to pay a reduced rate or receive care at no charge, and not discriminating against any patient



on the basis of ability to pay. Participants will also be required to maintain their State residency and medical license, remain current with payments on any student loans, maintain satisfactory performance of services, and report to HESAA on the performance of services rendered prior to receiving tuition reimbursement.

# SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### SENATE, No. 2331

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 23, 2016

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2331.

This bill establishes a tuition reimbursement program for psychiatrists to address a shortage of mental health care access in certain areas of the State.

The Commissioner of Health will designate, on the basis of health status and economic indicators, geographic areas of the State which have a shortage of physicians in the specialty of psychiatry. The program will provide reimbursement of a portion of medical school tuition expenses to psychiatrists who agree to provide mental health care services in one of these State underserved areas for a period of one to four years. Program participants must: (1) be State residents; (2) be State-licensed physicians who have completed all educational and residency training requirements for the practice of psychiatry; and (3) apply for the program within one year of completing an accredited residency program in psychiatry.

Program participants will enter into a contract with the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) for a specified number of one-year periods of service, up to four years, in which the participant agrees to engage in the full-time practice of psychiatry in a State underserved area. In return for this commitment, a portion of the participant's tuition expenses in attending medical school will be reimbursed. Tuition reimbursement will equal 25 percent of the participant's eligible tuition expenses for the one academic year of medical school attendance in which tuition was the lowest, in return for each full year of service under the program. The maximum total tuition reimbursement for a participant for four years of service will be 100 percent of the participant's eligible tuition expenses for the one academic year of medical school attendance in which tuition was the lowest.

Under the bill, participants in the program will be required to adhere to certain terms and standards, including charging for professional services at the usual and customary rates, allowing patients who are unable to pay that charge to pay a reduced rate or receive care at no charge, and not discriminating against any patient on the basis of ability to pay. Participants will also be required to maintain their State residency and medical license, remain current with

payments on any student loans, maintain satisfactory performance of services, and report to HESAA on the performance of services rendered prior to receiving tuition reimbursement.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative services is not able to provide an estimate of the costs of tuition reimbursement payments under the program. Program costs will be dependent upon the number of physicians with a specialty in psychiatry who apply to participate in the program, the amount of tuition for the one academic year of medical school attendance in which tuition was the lowest for each program participant, and the number of years in which a physician participates in the program.

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE**  
**SENATE, No. 2331**  
**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**217th LEGISLATURE**

DATED: JUNE 29, 2016

**SUMMARY**

**Synopsis:** Establishes tuition reimbursement program for certain psychiatrists who work in underserved areas in New Jersey.

**Type of Impact:** Expenditure Increase in General Fund

**Agencies Affected:** Higher Education Student Assistance Authority

**Office of Legislative Services Estimate**

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
<b>State Cost</b>	Indeterminate Increase		

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that Senate Bill No. 2331 would increase State expenditures by an indeterminate amount to fund the costs of the tuition reimbursement payments made to participating physicians as required under the bill. Program costs will be dependent upon the number of physicians with a specialty in psychiatry who apply to participate in the program, the amount of tuition for the one academic year of medical school attendance in which tuition was the lowest for each program participant, and the number of years in which a physician participates in the program.

**BILL DESCRIPTION**

Senate Bill No. 2331 of 2016 establishes a tuition reimbursement program for psychiatrists to address a shortage of mental health care access in certain areas of the State. The Commissioner of Health will designate, on the basis of health status and economic indicators, geographic areas of the State which have a shortage of physicians with a specialty in psychiatry. The program will provide reimbursement of a portion of the medical school tuition expenses to psychiatrists who agree to provide mental health care services in one of these underserved areas for a period of one to four years. Program participants must: (1) be State residents; (2) be State licensed physicians who have completed all educational and residency training requirements for the practice of psychiatry; and (3) apply for the program within one year of completing an accredited residency program in psychiatry.

Program participants will enter into a contract with the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) for a specified number of one-year periods of service, up to four years, in



which the participant agrees to engage in the full-time practice of psychiatry in a State underserved area. Tuition reimbursement will equal 25 percent of the participant's eligible tuition expenses for the one academic year of medical school attendance in which tuition was the lowest, in return for each full year of service under the program. The maximum total tuition reimbursement for a program participant for four years of service will be 100 percent of the participant's eligible tuition expenses for the one academic year of medical school attendance in which tuition was the lowest.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### ***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

None received.

### ***OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES***

The OLS is unable to determine the amount of the increase in State expenditures required to implement the bill's provisions. The State costs would be associated with the tuition reimbursement payments made to participating physicians. Program costs will be dependent upon the number of physicians with a specialty in psychiatry who participate in the program, the amount of tuition for the one academic year of medical school attendance in which tuition was the lowest for each program participant, and the number of years in which a physician participates in the program.

*Section: Education*  
*Analyst: Kathleen Fazzari*  
*Section Chief*  
*Approved: Frank W. Haines III*  
*Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

# ASSEMBLY, No. 3962

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 20, 2016

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY**

**District 27 (Essex and Morris)**

**Assemblyman JOHN F. MCKEON**

**District 27 (Essex and Morris)**

**Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Assemblywoman NANCY F. MUNOZ**

**District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)**

**Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI**

**District 33 (Hudson)**

**Assemblywoman GABRIELA M. MOSQUERA**

**District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

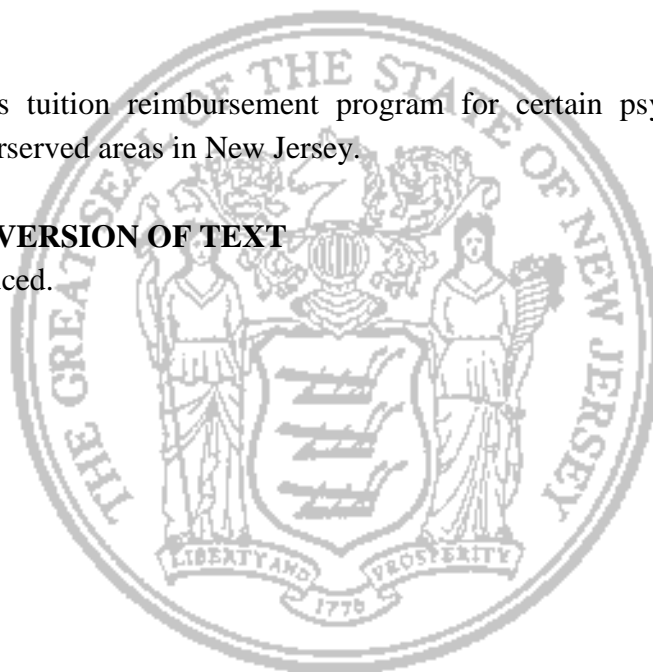
**Assemblywomen Handlin, Jimenez, Assemblymen Giblin and Caputo**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes tuition reimbursement program for certain psychiatrists who work in underserved areas in New Jersey.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/16/2016)**

1 AN ACT establishing a tuition reimbursement program for certain  
2 psychiatrists who work in New Jersey and supplementing chapter  
3 71C of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

7  
8 1. As used in this act:

9 “Authority” means the Higher Education Student Assistance  
10 Authority.

11 “Eligible tuition expenses” means tuition expenses that were  
12 incurred by a program participant in attending an accredited  
13 medical school and which were not covered by any grants or  
14 scholarships.

15 “Program” means the tuition reimbursement program for  
16 psychiatrists established pursuant to this act.

17 “Program participant” means a psychiatrist who contracts with  
18 the authority to provide mental health care services in a State  
19 underserved area in return for tuition reimbursement provided under  
20 the program.

21 “State underserved area” means a geographic area in this State  
22 which the Commissioner of Health determines on the basis of health  
23 status and economic indicators as having a physician shortage in the  
24 specialty of psychiatry.

25  
26 2. a. There is established in the Higher Education Student  
27 Assistance Authority a tuition reimbursement program for  
28 psychiatrists who provide mental health care services in a State  
29 underserved area. The program shall provide reimbursement to  
30 program participants for a portion of the eligible tuition expenses  
31 incurred by the participant in attending medical school.

32 b. A program participant shall enter into a contract with the  
33 authority for a specified number of one-year periods of service, up  
34 to four years, in which the participant agrees to engage in the full-  
35 time practice of psychiatry in a State underserved area. The  
36 agreement shall specify the program participant’s dates of required  
37 service and the total amount of reimbursement of eligible tuition  
38 expenses to be received by the participant in return for service.

39 c. The tuition reimbursement for a participant under the  
40 program shall equal 25 percent of the participant’s eligible tuition  
41 expenses for the one academic year of medical school attendance in  
42 which tuition was the lowest, in return for each full year of service  
43 satisfactorily completed by the participant under the program. The  
44 total tuition reimbursement amount for a program participant, for  
45 four full years of service, shall not exceed 100 percent of the  
46 participant’s eligible tuition expenses for the one academic year of  
47 medical school attendance in which tuition was the lowest.

- 1       3. To be eligible to participate in the program, an applicant  
2 shall:
- 3       a. be a resident of New Jersey;
- 4       b. be a State-licensed physician who has successfully  
5 completed all educational and residency training requirements for  
6 the practice of psychiatry;
- 7       c. apply for the program within one year of completing an  
8 accredited residency training program in psychiatry; and
- 9       d. agree to practice full-time as a psychiatrist in a State  
10 underserved area for a period of one to four years in return for the  
11 tuition reimbursement provided under the program.
- 12
- 13       4. a. The Commissioner of Health shall designate State  
14 underserved areas which have a shortage of psychiatrists. In  
15 designating State underserved areas, the commissioner shall  
16 consider health status criteria and economic indicators including,  
17 but not limited to, the financial resources of the population who  
18 resides in the area under consideration, and the population's access  
19 to mental health care services.
- 20       b. The Commissioner of Health shall transmit to the authority a  
21 list of the State underserved areas and the projected number of  
22 psychiatrists needed in each area.
- 23
- 24       5. The contract entered into between a program participant and  
25 the authority pursuant to section 2 of this act shall require a  
26 program participant to:
- 27       a. charge for professional services at the usual and customary  
28 rate prevailing in the State underserved area, but allow a patient  
29 who is unable to pay that charge to pay at a reduced rate or receive  
30 care at no charge;
- 31       b. not discriminate against any patient in the provision of  
32 mental health care services on the basis of that person's ability to  
33 pay or source of payment; and
- 34       c. agree not to impose any charge in excess of the limiting fee  
35 for a service, as determined by the United States Secretary of  
36 Health and Human Services, to a recipient of benefits under the  
37 federal Medicare program established pursuant to Pub.L.89-97 (42  
38 U.S.C. s.1395 et seq.).
- 39
- 40       6. A program participant, as a condition of participation, shall  
41 be required to adhere to performance standards established by the  
42 authority. The standards shall include, but not be limited to,  
43 requirements that a program participant:
- 44       a. maintain residency in the State;
- 45       b. maintain a license to practice medicine in the State;
- 46       c. remain current with payments on any student loans;
- 47       d. maintain satisfactory performance of services rendered in a  
48 State underserved area; and



1 e. report to the authority, on a form and in a manner prescribed  
2 by the authority, on the program participant's performance of  
3 services rendered prior to reimbursement of tuition under the  
4 program.

5  
6 7. An individual who is participating in the Primary Care  
7 Practitioner Loan Redemption Program, N.J.S.18A:71C-32 et seq.,  
8 or in the federally administered National Health Service Corps Loan  
9 Repayment Program, section 338B of the Public Health Service Act  
10 (42 U.S.C. s.2541-1), shall not be eligible to participate  
11 simultaneously in the tuition reimbursement program established  
12 pursuant to this act.

13  
14 8. The authority shall promulgate regulations pursuant to the  
15 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et  
16 seq.), necessary to effectuate the provisions of this act.

17  
18 9. This act shall take effect immediately.

19  
20

21 STATEMENT

22

23 This bill establishes a tuition reimbursement program for  
24 psychiatrists to address a shortage of mental health care access in  
25 certain areas of the State.

26 Under the bill, the Commissioner of Health will designate, on the  
27 basis of health status and economic indicators, geographic areas of  
28 the State which have a shortage of physicians in the specialty of  
29 psychiatry. The program will provide reimbursement of a portion  
30 of medical school tuition expenses to psychiatrists who agree to  
31 provide mental health care services in one of these State  
32 underserved areas for a period of one to four years. Program  
33 participants must: (1) be State residents; (2) be State-licensed  
34 physicians who have completed all educational and residency  
35 training requirements for the practice of psychiatry; and (3) apply  
36 for the program within one year of completing an accredited  
37 residency program in psychiatry.

38 Program participants will enter into a contract with the Higher  
39 Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) for a specified  
40 number of one-year periods of service, up to four years, in which  
41 the participant agrees to engage in the full-time practice of  
42 psychiatry in a State underserved area. In return for this  
43 commitment, a portion of the participant's tuition expenses in  
44 attending medical school will be reimbursed. Tuition  
45 reimbursement will equal 25 percent of the participant's eligible  
46 tuition expenses for the one academic year of medical school  
47 attendance in which tuition was the lowest, in return for each full  
48 year of service under the program. The maximum total tuition

**A3962 JASEY, MCKEON**

5

1 reimbursement for a participant for four years of service will be 100  
2 percent of the participant's eligible tuition expenses for the one  
3 academic year of medical school attendance in which tuition was  
4 the lowest.

5 Under the bill, participants in the program will be required to  
6 adhere to certain terms and standards, including charging for  
7 professional services at the usual and customary rates, allowing  
8 patients who are unable to pay that charge to pay a reduced rate or  
9 receive care at no charge, and not discriminating against any patient  
10 on the basis of ability to pay. Participants will also be required to  
11 maintain their State residency and medical license, remain current  
12 with payments on any student loans, maintain satisfactory  
13 performance of services, and report to HESAA on the performance  
14 of services rendered prior to receiving tuition reimbursement.

# ASSEMBLY HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### ASSEMBLY, No. 3962

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: SEPTEMBER 8, 2016

The Assembly Higher Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 3962.

This bill establishes a tuition reimbursement program for psychiatrists to address a shortage of mental health care access in certain areas of the State.

Under the bill, the Commissioner of Health will designate, on the basis of health status and economic indicators, geographic areas of the State which have a shortage of physicians in the specialty of psychiatry. The program will provide reimbursement of a portion of medical school tuition expenses to psychiatrists who agree to provide mental health care services in one of these State underserved areas for a period of one to four years. Program participants must: (1) be State residents; (2) be State-licensed physicians who have completed all educational and residency training requirements for the practice of psychiatry; and (3) apply for the program within one year of completing an accredited residency program in psychiatry.

Program participants will enter into a contract with the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) for a specified number of one-year periods of service, up to four years, in which the participant agrees to engage in the full-time practice of psychiatry in a State underserved area. In return for this commitment, a portion of the participant's tuition expenses in attending medical school will be reimbursed. Tuition reimbursement will equal 25 percent of the participant's eligible tuition expenses for the one academic year of medical school attendance in which tuition was the lowest, in return for each full year of service under the program. The maximum total tuition reimbursement for a participant for four years of service will be 100 percent of the participant's eligible tuition expenses for the one academic year of medical school attendance in which tuition was the lowest.

Under the bill, participants in the program will be required to adhere to certain terms and standards, including charging for professional services at the usual and customary rates, allowing patients who are unable to pay that charge to pay a reduced rate or receive care at no charge, and not discriminating against any patient on the basis of ability to pay. Participants will also be required to

maintain their State residency and medical license, remain current with payments on any student loans, maintain satisfactory performance of services, and report to HESAA on the performance of services rendered prior to receiving tuition reimbursement.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 2331, which was also reported by the committee on this same date.

# ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **ASSEMBLY, No. 3962**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: DECEMBER 15, 2016

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 3962, with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill establishes a tuition reimbursement program for psychiatrists, including child and adolescent psychiatrists, to address a shortage of mental health care access in certain areas of the State and a shortage of psychiatrists in State psychiatric hospitals.

The bill provides that the Commissioner of Health designate, in consultation with the Commissioner of Human Services, on the basis of health status and economic indicators, geographic areas of the State which have a shortage of physicians in the specialty of psychiatry, and that the Commissioner of Human Services indicate the State psychiatric hospitals that have a shortage of psychiatrists. The program will provide reimbursement of a portion of medical school tuition expenses to psychiatrists who agree to provide mental health care services in one of these State underserved areas or State psychiatric hospitals for a period of one to four years. Program participants must: (1) be State residents; (2) be State-licensed physicians who have completed all educational and residency training requirements for the practice of psychiatry; and (3) apply for the program within one year of completing an accredited residency program in psychiatry or an accredited fellowship in child and adolescent psychiatry.

The bill provides that program participants enter into a contract with the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) for a specified number of one-year periods of service, up to four years, in which the participant agrees to engage in the full-time practice of psychiatry in a State underserved area or a State psychiatric hospital. In return for this commitment, a portion of the participant's tuition expenses in attending medical school will be reimbursed. Tuition reimbursement will equal 25 percent of the participant's eligible tuition expenses for the one academic year of medical school attendance in which tuition was the lowest, in return for each full year of service under the program. The maximum total tuition reimbursement for a participant for four years of service will be 100 percent of the participant's eligible tuition expenses for the one

academic year of medical school attendance in which tuition was the lowest.

The bill requires that a participant in the program serving in a State designated underserved area adhere to certain terms and standards, including charging for professional services at the usual and customary rates, allowing patients who are unable to pay that charge to pay a reduced rate or receive care at no charge, and not discriminating against any patient on the basis of ability to pay. All program participants will be required to maintain their State residency and medical license, remain current with payments on any student loans, maintain satisfactory performance of services, and report to HESAA on the performance of services rendered prior to receiving tuition reimbursement. As amended and reported, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 2331, as also amended and reported by the committee

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative services is not able to provide an estimate of the costs of tuition reimbursement payments under the program. Program costs will be dependent upon the number of physicians with a specialty in psychiatry who apply to participate in the program, the amount of tuition for the one academic year of medical school attendance in which tuition was the lowest for each program participant, and the number of years in which a physician participates in the program.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The amendments 1) allow a psychiatrist who is working in a State psychiatric hospital to participate in the tuition reimbursement program; 2) provide that the Commissioner of Health will consult with the Commissioner of Human Services in the designation of State underserved areas; 3) direct the Commissioner of Human Services to transmit a list to the authority of the State psychiatric hospitals and the projected number of psychiatrists needed in each hospital; and 4) provide that a psychiatrist may also apply for the tuition reimbursement program within one year of completing an accredited fellowship in child and adolescent psychiatry. The bill in its original form required a psychiatrist to apply within one year of completing an accredited residency training program in psychiatry.

# LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

## ASSEMBLY, No. 3962

### STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JANUARY 4, 2017

#### SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Establishes tuition reimbursement program for certain psychiatrists who work in underserved areas or psychiatric hospitals in New Jersey.
- Type of Impact:** Expenditure increase in General Fund
- Agencies Affected:** Higher Education Student Assistance Authority

#### Office of Legislative Services Estimate

<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	<b><u>Year 1</u></b>	<b><u>Year 2</u></b>	<b><u>Year 3</u></b>
<b>State Cost</b>		Indeterminate Increase	

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that Assembly Bill No. 3962 (1R) of 2016 would increase State expenditures by an indeterminate amount to fund the costs of the tuition reimbursement payments made to participating physicians as required under the bill. Program costs will be dependent upon the number of physicians with a specialty in psychiatry who apply to participate in the program, the amount of tuition for the one academic year of medical school attendance in which tuition was the lowest for each program participant, and the number of years in which a physician participates in the program.

#### BILL DESCRIPTION

Assembly Bill No. 3962 (1R) of 2016 establishes a tuition reimbursement program for psychiatrists to address a shortage of mental health care access in certain areas of the State and a shortage of psychiatrists in State psychiatric hospitals. The Commissioner of Health, in consultation with the Commissioner of Human Services, will designate, on the basis of health status and economic indicators, geographic areas of the State which have a shortage of physicians with a specialty in psychiatry, and the Commissioner of Human Services will indicate the State psychiatric hospitals that have a shortage of psychiatrists. The program will provide reimbursement of a portion of the medical school tuition expenses to psychiatrists who agree to provide mental health care services in one of these underserved areas or State psychiatric hospitals for a period of one to four years. Program participants must: (1) be State residents; (2)

be State licensed physicians who have completed all educational and residency training requirements for the practice of psychiatry; and (3) apply for the program within one year of completing an accredited residency program in psychiatry or an accredited fellowship in child and adolescent psychiatry.

Program participants will enter into a contract with the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) for a specified number of one-year periods of service, up to four years, in which the participant agrees to engage in the full-time practice of psychiatry in a State underserved area or a State psychiatric hospital. Tuition reimbursement will equal 25 percent of the participants' eligible tuition expenses for the one academic year of medical school attendance in which tuition was the lowest, in return for each full year of service under the program. The maximum total tuition reimbursement for a program participant for four years of service will be 100 percent of the participant's eligible tuition expenses for the one academic year of medical school attendance in which tuition was the lowest.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### ***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

None received.

### ***OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES***

The OLS is unable to determine the amount of the increase in State expenditures required to implement the bill's provisions. The State costs would be associated with the tuition reimbursement payments made to participating physicians. Program costs will be dependent upon the number of physicians with a specialty in psychiatry who participate in the program, the amount of tuition for the one academic year of medical school attendance in which tuition was the lowest for each program participant, and the number of years in which a physician participates in the program.

*Section: Education*  
*Analyst: Juan C. Rodriguez*  
*Assistant Fiscal Analyst*  
*Approved: Frank W. Haines III*  
*Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).



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## Governor Christie Takes Action on Pending Legislation

Friday, July 21, 2017

Tags: [Bill Action](#)

**Trenton, NJ** – Governor Chris Christie today took action on dozens of bills, including S-359/A-2320 (Codey, Vitale/Vainieri Huttle, Conaway, Jimenez, Lampitt, Jasey, Sumter), which raises the minimum age from 19 to 21 of a person to whom a vendor may sell, offer for sale, distribute, give or furnish tobacco products in New Jersey. This new law also amends various related statues concerning penalties, fines, signage requirements, non-face-to-face transactions, and enforcement provisions to reflect the increased minimum age.

“By raising the minimum age to purchase tobacco products to 21, we are giving young people more time to develop a maturity and better understanding of how dangerous smoking can be and that it is better to not start smoking in the first place,” Governor Christie said. “My mother died from the effects of smoking, and no one should lose their life due to any addictive substance. Additionally, the less people who develop costly tobacco habits that can cause health problems, such as lung cancer, heart disease and developmental issues, the less strain there will be on our healthcare system.”

Governor Christie also took action on pending legislation related to:

### Further Addressing the Opioid Epidemic

Governor Christie signed four bills that continue New Jersey's leadership role in fighting the national opioid epidemic. The legislation that requires the Department of Human Services develop, maintain, and post on their website daily information about the number of open beds available in facilities in the state for people in need of mental health or substance use disorder treatment; help inform parents of student athletes and cheerleaders about the use and misuse of prescription opioids; allows hospice programs to accept the unused prescription medicines of their hospice patients for safe disposal and implements the use of current-day, sensitive terminology when referring to persons with substance use disorders or certain disabilities.

- **A-1662/S-2466 (Schaer, Vainieri Huttle, Coughlin, McKnight, Mukherji/Vitale, Allen)** - Requires development and maintenance of data dashboard report to advise of open bed availability in residential facilities providing behavioral health services
- **A-3944/S-2402 (Mazzeo, Lagana, Vainieri Huttle, Benson, Caride, Wimberly/Diegnan, Vitale)** - Requires DOE to develop educational fact sheet for distribution to parents of student-athletes and cheerleaders concerning use and misuse of prescription opioids
- **S-2970/A-4522 (Vitale, Diegnan/Lampitt, Vainieri Huttle, Jimenez)** - Allows hospice care programs to accept unused prescription medications for disposal under certain circumstances
- **S-2721/ACS for A-926 (Vitale, Whelan/Vainieri Huttle, Benson, Tucker, Eustace, McKnight, Mosquera)** - Implements person-first language and changes pejorative terminology referring to persons with certain disabilities or substance use disorders

### Protecting and Preserving the Environment

The Governor also signed several bills to protect people and improve the quality of life by strengthening New Jersey's environment.

“These new laws will create more open space preservation opportunities, green energy solutions and safeguards to ensure quality drinking water for all New Jerseyans,” Governor Christie said. “They provide greater flexibility for counties and municipalities to use the roughly \$270 million open space tax dollars they collect each year for the intended mission of protecting New Jersey's environment, improving communities with more recreation and

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conservation, and preventing overcrowding of our towns and schools. They also ensure reliable, sustainable and safe environmental infrastructure across the state, by investing nearly \$100 million in critical projects this year."

- **A-1645/S-195 (Schaer, Webber, Dancer, Pintor Marin/Kyrillos, Smith)** - Expands definition of "acquisition," for purposes of county and municipal open space trust funds, to include demolition, removal of debris, and restoration of lands being acquired
- **S-3352/A-5045 (Ruiz, Bateman/Oliver, Chaparro, Singleton, Lagana, Bramnick, Vainieri Huttie, Zwicker)** - Appropriates \$71,700,224 from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues and various Green Acres funds to DEP for local government open space acquisition and park development projects
- **S-3353/A-5046 (Greenstein, Thompson/Eustace, Land, Mukherji, Schaer, Bramnick, Vainieri Huttie, Wimberly)** - Appropriates \$12.3 million from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues for recreation and conservation purposes to DEP for State capital and park development projects
- **S-3354/A-5044 (Gordon, Allen/McKeon, Mazzeo, Muoio, Moriarty, Bramnick, Zwicker, Vainieri Huttie)** - Appropriates \$8,992,898 to DEP from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues and various Green Acres funds for grants to certain nonprofit entities to acquire or develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes
- **S-3240/A-4996 (Greenstein, Codey/Mukherji, Mazzeo, Schaer, Holley, Land)** - Authorizes NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust to expend certain sums to make loans for environmental infrastructure projects for FY2018
- **CC for S-3241/A-4998 (Smith, Codey/Eustace, Muoio, Moriarty, Conaway, Andrzejczak)** - Appropriates funds to DEP for environmental infrastructure projects for FY2018
- **S-3242/A-4997 (Gordon, Oroho/McKeon, Prieto)** - Clarifies procedures for approval of environmental and transportation infrastructure projects
- **S-3181/A-4756 (Smith, Diegnan/DeAngelo, Eustace, Gusciora)** - Permits solar electric power generation facility projects not having commenced commercial operation to retain designation through May 31, 2018 as connected to distribution system
- **S-2834/A-4569 (Sweeney, Greenstein, Bateman/Eustace, Karabinchak, McKeon, Vainieri Huttie, Benson, Muoio)** - The "Water Quality Accountability Act"; imposes certain testing, reporting, management, and infrastructure investment requirements on water purveyors

Governor Christie also took action on the following bills:

#### BILL SIGNINGS:

**S-5/A-4925 (Vitale, Sweeney/Conaway, O'Scanlon, Houghtaling, Quijano, Giblin, DeAngelo, Munoz, Mukherji, A.M. Bucco)** - Establishes data reporting requirements for emergency medical services providers and dispatch centers

**SS SCS SCS for S-291, 652, 1954/ACS for A-1464 (Vitale, Whelan, Allen, Turner/Lampitt, Coughlin, Conaway, Vainieri Huttie, Lagana, Mukherji, Moriarty)** - Authorizes health care providers to engage in telemedicine and telehealth

**S-742/A-1205 (Beach/Mosquera, Holley, Wimberly, Jones)** - Requires board of education to enter into agreement with law enforcement authorities regarding access to live video streams of public school buildings

**S-1295/A-3701 (Vitale/Eustace, Munoz)** - Amends and repeals sections of "Respiratory Care Practitioner Licensing Act"

**S-1315/A-1839 (Vitale/Giblin, Wimberly, McKeon, Mukherji, Sumter)** - Revises statutes regarding practice of physical therapy

**S-1840/A-2085 (Ruiz, Gill/Mukherji, Oliver, McKnight)** - Prohibits charging fee to stop publishing personal identifying information obtained through the criminal justice system

**S-1913/A-2794 (Addiego, Greenstein/Lagana, Moriarty, Mukherji, Downey)** - "Personal Information and Privacy Protection Act"; restricts collection and use of personal information by retail establishments for certain purposes

**S-2058/A-671 (T. Kean, Pou/Munoz, Giblin, Mukherji, Moriarty)** - Adds two nurse educators to the New Jersey Board of Nursing

**S-2331/A-3962 (Codey, Vitale/Jasey, McKeon, Vainieri Huttie, Munoz, Mukherji, Mosquera, Lampitt)** - Establishes tuition reimbursement program for certain psychiatrists who work in underserved areas or psychiatric hospitals in New Jersey

**CC S-2403/A-3717 (Rice, Turner/Sumter, Vainieri Huttie, Lampitt, Downey)** - Establishes Women's Vocational Training Pilot Program to promote economic self-sufficiency of low-income women through increased participation in high-wage, high-demand occupations; authorizes allocation of certain funds therefor

**S-2452/A-4007 (Diegnan, Stack/Houghtaling, Downey, Mosquera, Mazzeo)** - Requires Director of Division of Taxation to promulgate Property Taxpayer Bill of Rights

**S-2577/A-4238 (Cunningham, Ruiz, Gordon/Sumter, Jasey, Muoio, Lagana, Downey, Benson)** - Requires Higher Education Student Assistance Authority to provide annual New Jersey College Loans to Assist State Students Loan Program report to Governor and Legislature and develop student loan comparison information document to increase program transparency

**S-2618/A-4691 (Cunningham, Pou/Caride, McKeon, Jasey, Giblin)** - Requires institutions of higher education to enter into collective Statewide reverse transfer agreement

**S-2819/A-4363 (Sweeney, Ruiz, Lesniak/Taliaferro, Andrzejczak, Lampitt, Mosquera, Holley, Quijano)** - Creates "Nourishing Young Minds Initiative Fund" in Dept. of Agriculture to help pay for child food and nutrition programs

**S-3027/A-4631 (Smith, Greenstein/Lampitt, Quijano, Eustace, Kennedy, Benson, Muoio, Zwicker, Mukherji)** - Establishes State food waste reduction goal of 50 percent by 2030

**S-3067/A-4652 (Ruiz, Vitale/Vainieri Huttie, Caride, Eustace, Jasey, Wimberly, Gusciora)** - Requires Commissioner of Education to develop guidelines for school districts regarding transgender students

**S-3176/A-4898 (Madden/Mukherji, Singleton)** - Changes year used to calculate TDI and FLI employee taxes from most recent calendar year to most recent fiscal year

**S-3191/A-3370 (Sweeney, Bateman/Burzichelli, Jones)** - Extends voting rights of representatives of sending districts on receiving district board of education

**S-3219/A-4859 (Sweeney, T. Kean, Greenstein, Holzapfel/Vainieri Huttie, Prieto, Downey)** - Establishes additional penalties related to child pornography and expands crime to include portrayal of child in sexual manner; establishes crime of leader of child pornography network

**S-3331/A-5039 (Cruz-Perez/Jones)** - Authorizes State Treasurer to sell surplus real property in City of Camden, County of Camden to Camden County Improvement Authority

**SJR-105/AJR-157 (Diegnan, Cruz-Perez, Sweeney/Pinkin, Karabinchak, Coughlin)** - Designates August 29, 2017 as Governor James Florio Day in New Jersey

**SJR-113/AJR-165 (Gordon/Vainieri Huttie, Chiaravalloti)** - Clarifies intent of law subjecting PANYNJ to open public records and freedom of information laws in New Jersey and New York

**A-222/S-2171 (DeAngelo, Giblin, Singleton, Holley, Benson/Bateman, Greenstein, Stack)** - "New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act"; authorizes issuance of \$125,000,000 in general obligation bonds to finance capital projects at public libraries; appropriates \$5,000

**A-373/S-607 (Auth, Vainieri Huttie, McGuckin, Schepisi, Peterson, Jimenez/Addiego, A.R. Bucco)** - Requires life imprisonment without parole for persons convicted of the murder of a minor under the age of 18 in the course of the commission of a sex crime

**A-555/S-1847 (Pinkin, Eustace/Diegnan)** - Revises statutes concerning incorporation and governance of the Protestant Episcopal Church to remove gender-specific references

**A-621/S-2328 (Lagana, Greenwald, Moriarty, Mosquera, Mukherji/Cruz-Perez, Turner)** - Permits bowling alleys, including alleys licensed to sell alcoholic beverages, to conduct amusement games

**A-1458/S-2449 (Lampitt, Mosquera, Downey, Singleton, Vainieri Huttie/Vitale, Ruiz)** - Requires health care professionals engaged in prenatal care to provide parents of newborns with information on health insurance coverage for newborn children

**A-1761/S-332 (Eustace, Mukherji, Gusciora/Scutari, Bateman)** - Creates fencing crime involving stolen domestic companion animals

**A-2060/S-2333 (Gusciora, Sumter, Oliver, Jasey, McKnight/Cruz-Perez, Turner)** - Establishes process for consideration of offers from short sale buyers during residential mortgage foreclosures

**A-2221/S-2453 (Benson, Russo, DeAngelo, A.M. Bucco/Diegnan, Greenstein)** - Allows gross income taxpayers to use returns to make voluntary contributions to the Boy Scouts of America Councils in New Jersey

**A-2441/S-2910 (Eustace, Gusciora, Kennedy, Mazzeo, Mukherji/Gordon, Turner)** - Authorizes the Unclaimed Property Administrator to verify certain governmental debts before delivering abandoned property

**A-2926/S-3197 (Greenwald, Vainieri Huttie, Schaer, Mukherji, Holley, Mosquera, Muoio, Sumter, Mazzeo/Cruz-Perez, Cunningham)** - Repeals law suspending certain licenses, registrations and certifications for failure to repay student loans

**A-2993/S-1305 (Conaway, Pinkin, Sumter, Wimberly, McKnight, Mukherji/Vitale, Madden)** - Requires Medicaid coverage for diabetes self-management education, training, services, and equipment for patients diagnosed with diabetes, gestational diabetes, and pre-diabetes

**A-3347/S-2242 (Wolfe, Holley, Jasey, McKnight, Wimberly/Diegnan)** - Establishes New Jersey School Safety Specialist Academy in Department of Education and requires school districts to designate school safety specialist

**A-3438/S-1564 (DeAngelo, Danielsens, Holley, Houghtaling, Downey, Wimberly, Quijano/Turner, Beach)** - Requires initial determination of unemployment benefits to be made within three weeks of filing of claim

**A-3463/S-2038 (Coughlin/Vitale, Codey)** - Updates references to DOC and DHS and refers to persons receiving services from DHS

**A-3686/S-2423 (McKeon, Jasey, Munoz, Vainieri Huttie, A.M. Bucco/Codey, Oroho)** - Establishes new crime of strict liability vehicular homicide; renames existing vehicular homicide as reckless vehicular homicide; designated as Ralph and David's Law

**A-4011/S-2887 (Jones, Barclay, Moriarty, Mosquera, Greenwald, Lampitt, Mazzeo, Chiaravalloti/Cruz-Perez, Beach)** - Designates USS New Jersey as New Jersey State Ship

**A-4081/S-2662 (Lampitt, Vainieri Huttle, Benson, Wimberly, Greenwald/Allen, Sweeney)** - "Charlie's Law"; Establishes civil penalties for persons who interfere with or deny persons with disabilities accompanied by service or guide dogs access to places of public accommodation

**A-4088/S-2567 (Schaer, Jasey, Benson, Wimberly/Cruz-Perez, Singer)** - Establishes "High School to College Readiness Commission" to examine issues and develop recommendations to enhance student preparation for postsecondary education

**A-4175/S-2808 (Caride, McKnight, Holley, Pintor Marin, Wimberly/Ruiz, Turner)** -Requires Commissioner of Education to develop guidance on identifying English language learners for gifted and talented programs

**A-4246/S-3194 (Dancer/Lesniak, Beck)** - Decreases annual thoroughbred race dates to 50 minimum upon written consent from New Jersey Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association

**A-4317/S-3206 (Prieto, Giblin/Diegnan)** - Concerns violations of certain occupational licensing laws

**A-4568/S-3017 (Vainieri Huttle, Eustace, Pinkin, Jasey, Johnson/Vitale, Ruiz)** - Prohibits health insurers, SHBP, SEHBP, certain health care providers, and Medicaid from discriminating in providing coverage and services based on gender identity

**A-4875/S-1996 (Muoio, Gusciora/Beach, Van Drew)** - Requires gubernatorial candidates' statements be posted online

**A-4969/S-3281 (Oliver, Giblin, Jasey, McKnight, Schaer, Wimberly/Gill, Cunningham)** - Establishes Montclair State University as public research university

**ACS for A-4994/S-3314 (McKeon, Burzichelli, Singleton, Caride/Sarlo, Oroho)** - Requires certain State and local government agency employees with access to federal tax information to undergo criminal history background checks

**AJR-37/SJR-67 (Mosquera, Chaparro/Weinberg)** - Designates June 21 of each year as "ASK Day" to promote children's health and gun safety

**ACS for AJR-54/SJR-104 (Benson, Mosquera, Chiaravalloti, Holley, McKnight, Wimberly/Sweeney, Beach)** - Designates April 2nd of each year as "World Autism Awareness Day"

**AJR-72/SJR-31 (Gove, Rumpf, A.M. Bucco, Holley/A.R. Bucco)** - Designates September 17 through September 23 of each year as "Constitution Week"

**AJR-115/SJR-81 (Vainieri Huttle, Lampitt, Giblin, Benson/Diegnan, A.R. Bucco)** - Designates third Friday in September of every year as Concussion Awareness Day

**AJR-126/SJR-85 (Dancer, DeAngelo, Munoz, A.M. Bucco, Mukherji, Houghtaling, Downey/Allen, Madden)** - Commemorates establishment and service of the New Jersey State Police and celebrates 95th anniversary of first graduating class

**AJR-137/SJR-102 (Mazzeo/Whelan)** - Urges United States President Trump, members of his administration, and Congress to oppose measures and actions to prohibit states from authorizing and conducting Internet gaming

#### **BILLS VETOED:**

**SCS for S-1297, 1990/A-3751 (Vitale, Sweeney/Jasey, Coughlin)** - **CONDITIONAL** - Permits candidates for school board to circulate petitions jointly and be bracketed together on ballot; permits short nonpolitical designation of principles on petitions and ballots

**A-31/S-3315 (Prieto, Muoio, Oliver, Schaer, Holley, Mukherji, Quijano, Wimberly, Pintor Marin/Vitale, Cruz-Perez)** - **ABSOLUTE** - Increases amount of benefits under Work First New Jersey program by 30 percent over three years and according to Social Security cost of living increases thereafter

**A-33/S-3316 (Muoio, Vainieri Huttle, Mukherji, Oliver, Gusciora, Pintor Marin/Vitale, Cruz-Perez)** - **ABSOLUTE** - Repeals family cap in Work First New Jersey program

**A-320/S-1018 (Singleton, Vainieri Huttle, Munoz, Moriarty, Lampitt, Sumter, Mukherji/Weinberg, Cruz-Perez)** - **CONDITIONAL** - Establishes minimum Medicaid reimbursement rate for personal care services

**A-1139/S-2616 (Holley, McKnight, Munoz, Kennedy, Mukherji, Pintor Marin, Wimberly/Ruiz, Vitale)** - **CONDITIONAL** - Prohibits sale of unsafe supplemental mattresses designed for children's products

**A-2297/S-659 (Vainieri Huttle, Sumter, Mukherji, Caride, Downey, Zwicker, Wimberly/Turner, Allen)** - **CONDITIONAL** - Requires health insurance coverage for contraceptives to include prescriptions for 12 months

**A-3338/S-862 (Eustace, Lagana, Vainieri Huttle, Muoio, Mukherji, Benson, Jimenez, Giblin, Moriarty, Lampitt/Stack, Weinberg)** - **CONDITIONAL** - Dedicates one percent of cigarette and other tobacco products tax revenues to anti-smoking initiatives

**ACS for A-3480, 4119/S-2536 (Downey, Lampitt, Schaer, Houghtaling, Benson, Singleton, Muoio, DeAngelo/Gill, Weinberg)** - **ABSOLUTE** - Concerns employer inquiries about worker's wage and salary experience

**A-4253/S-2634 (Quijano, Mukherji, Vainieri Huttle, Eustace, Jones, McKeon/Weinberg, Diegnan) - CONDITIONAL** - Establishes "New Jersey Nonprofit Security Grant Pilot Program"; appropriates \$3,000,000 over next three fiscal years

**A-4453/S-2881 (Downey, Houghtaling/Ruiz) – CONDITIONAL** - Requires pupils who reside on certain federal property to enroll in resident school district in accordance with schedule determined by executive county superintendent of schools

**A-4496/S-2977 (Wimberly, Sumter, Lampitt/Lesniak) – CONDITIONAL** - "Healthy Small Food Retailer Act"; provides funding to small food retailers to sell fresh and nutritious food; appropriates \$1 million

**A-4587/SCS for S-2574 (Quijano, Vainieri Huttle, Mukherji, Giblin/Diegnan, Sarlo) – ABSOLUTE** - Imposes State sales and use tax and hotel and motel occupancy fee on transient accommodations; authorizes various municipal taxes and fees on transient accommodations

**A-4870/S-3226 (Prieto, Oliver, Quijano, Pintor Marin, Schaer, Vainieri Huttle, Eustace/Ruiz, Sweeney, Greenstein) – ABSOLUTE** - "Safe Transportation Jobs and Fair Employment Rules Act"

**ACS for A-4927/SCS for S-3085 (Prieto, Oliver, Gusciora, Jasey/Sweeney, Diegnan, Ruiz) – CONDITIONAL** - Revises law concerning family leave, temporary disability and family temporary disability leave, and domestic or sexual violence safety leave

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