

18A:71B-85 and 18A:71B-85.2

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 2017 **CHAPTER:** 360

NJSA: 18A:71B-85 and 18A:71B-85.2 (Allows NJ STARS and NJ STARS II scholarship recipients to maintain program eligibility in the event that medical condition or recent death of parent or spouse prevents enrollment as full-time student.)

BILL NO: A2565 (Substituted for S888)

SPONSOR(S) Benson and others

DATE INTRODUCED: 2/4/2016

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Higher Education
 SENATE: Higher Education
 Budget & Appropriations

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** 4/7/2016
 SENATE: 1/5/2018

DATE OF APPROVAL: 1/16/2018

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (Second Reprint enacted) Yes

A2565

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT: (Begins on page 7 of introduced bill) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** Yes Higher Education
 SENATE: Yes Higher Education
 Budget & Appropriations

(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)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: Yes

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: Yes 2/25/2016
 4/12/2016

S888

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT: (Begins on page 7 of introduced bill) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** No
 SENATE: Yes Higher Education
 Budget & Appropriations

(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)

(continued)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: Yes

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: No

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: No

RH/CL

P.L. 2017, CHAPTER 360, *approved January 16, 2018*
Assembly, No. 2565 (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning eligibility for the NJ STARS and NJ STARS II
2 Programs and amending P.L.2008, c.124, P.L.2004, c.59, and
3 P.L.2005, c.359.

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) has graduated high school and, in the case of a student who
37 graduates in the 2013-2014 school year and thereafter, whose class
38 rank at the completion of the 11th grade or 12th grade was in the
39 top 15.0% of the student's high school class, provided that in the
40 case of students graduating from high schools that do not calculate
41 the class rank of their students, the student's ranking at the

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:

¹Assembly AHI committee amendments adopted February 4, 2016.

²Assembly floor amendments adopted March 14, 2016.

1 completion of the 11th grade or 12th grade shall be determined by
2 the high school in consultation with the authority; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

46 d. A student who is dismissed for academic or disciplinary
47 reasons from a county college shall no longer be eligible for a
48 scholarship under this act. If a student participating in the program

1 is dismissed for disciplinary reasons, the student shall repay in full
2 all amounts received under the program. The county college shall
3 be responsible for collecting the repayment, or the amount of any
4 overpayment or other improper payment, of any State awards under
5 the program, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.18A:71B-
6 10.

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

11 (cf: P.L.2014, c.55, s.1)

12

13 2. Section 3 of P.L.2008, c.124 (18A:71B-85.2) is amended to
14 read as follows:

15 3. a. A student who receives an NJ STARS scholarship shall
16 be eligible to take less than 12 credits in the final semester if the
17 county college determines that the student needs to complete less
18 than 12 credits in that semester to complete the degree program.

19 b. In the case of a student who is enrolled in an associate
20 degree program regularly requiring six semesters, the student shall
21 not receive an NJ STARS scholarship for the sixth semester but
22 shall maintain eligibility for the New Jersey Student Tuition
23 Assistance Reward Scholarship II (NJ STARS II) Program
24 established pursuant to P.L.2005, c.359 (C.18A:71B-86.1 et seq.),
25 provided that the student meets the requirements for receipt of an
26 NJ STARS II scholarship.

27 c. Beginning in the 2015-2016 academic year, a student who
28 receives an NJ STARS scholarship or a student who is already in
29 the NJ STARS program shall be eligible to take less than 12 credits
30 in a semester if ¹:¹ the student provides to the county college a
31 written note from a physician or other licensed health care
32 professional indicating the student's need to take a reduced number
33 of credits due to a physical or mental health condition ¹; or the
34 student provides to the county college, in such form as determined
35 by the authority, verification of the recent death of the student's
36 parent or spouse¹ . ²[A] To receive an NJ STARS payment for the
37 semester, a² student who receives a medical exemption ¹or an
38 exemption due to the recent death of the student's parent or spouse¹
39 from the full-time course of study requirement pursuant to this
40 subsection shall ²[be eligible for additional semesters in the NJ
41 STARS program, as necessary] enroll for a minimum of six credits
42 in the semester. A student shall receive an additional semester of
43 NJ STARS eligibility for each semester the student receives an
44 exemption from the full-time course of study requirement pursuant
45 to this subsection, not to exceed five additional semesters² .

46 (cf: P.L.2008, c.124, s.3)

1 3. Section 4 of P.L.2005, c.359 (C.18A:71B-86.4) is amended
2 to read as follows:

3 4. a. A scholarship under the NJ STARS II Program shall be
4 applied toward the cost of tuition or in the case of a student who
5 receives a Tuition Aid Grant toward the cost of tuition and fees,
6 subject to the prior application of other grants and scholarships
7 against such costs as provided under paragraph (2) of subsection e.
8 of this section, for an eligible student enrolled in a full-time course
9 of study at a New Jersey four-year public or independent institution
10 of higher education. A scholarship under the NJ STARS II Program
11 shall be paid to the institution in the amount of \$1,250 per semester.
12 The cost of a scholarship shall be paid 100% by the State. Any cost
13 of attendance that is not covered by the NJ STARS II scholarship or
14 other available forms of grants and scholarships shall be paid by the
15 student.

16 b. A student shall be eligible for a scholarship under the NJ
17 STARS II Program for up to four semesters, excluding summer
18 sessions, at a New Jersey four-year public or independent institution
19 of higher education.

20 c. A student shall be eligible to receive a scholarship under the
21 NJ STARS II Program for the student's third academic year of study
22 if the student: has an annual family income, both taxable and non-
23 taxable, as derived from the Free Application for Federal Student
24 Aid (FAFSA) for the academic year, of less than \$250,000; attained
25 an associate's degree from a New Jersey county college; except as
26 otherwise provided pursuant to subsection c. of section 2 and
27 subsection b. of section 3 of P.L.2008, c.124 (C.18A:71B-85.2),
28 received a scholarship under the "New Jersey Student Tuition
29 Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS) Program Act,"
30 P.L.2004, c.59 (C.18A:71B-81 et seq.), for each semester of study
31 in the county college, or was eligible for but did not receive a
32 scholarship under NJ STARS because the student's tuition was fully
33 covered by other State or federal need-based grants or merit
34 scholarships, or was eligible for but did not receive a scholarship
35 under NJ STARS because the student was enrolled while a high
36 school student in county college courses and received an associate's
37 degree in accordance with a joint program offered by the student's
38 school district and a county college; attains a cumulative grade
39 point average of at least 3.25 upon graduation from county college;
40 enrolls in a baccalaureate degree program at a New Jersey four-year
41 public or independent institution of higher education for the third
42 academic year of study in the academic year immediately following
43 the student's attainment of an associate's degree; and meets the
44 criteria set forth in subsection e. of this section. A grade for credits
45 earned during a summer semester shall for the purposes of this
46 subsection be included in the calculation of the cumulative grade
47 point average.

1 d. A student shall be eligible to receive a scholarship under the
2 NJ STARS II Program for the student's fourth academic year of
3 study if the student: received a scholarship under the NJ STARS II
4 Program for the student's third academic year of study pursuant to
5 subsection c. of this section; based on the student's performance
6 during the third academic year of study, attained a grade point
7 average of at least 3.25; and meets the criteria set forth in
8 subsection e. of this section. A grade for credits earned during a
9 summer semester shall for the purposes of this subsection be
10 included in the calculation of the grade point average for the
11 preceding academic year.

12 e. To be eligible to receive a scholarship under the NJ STARS
13 II Program, a student shall:

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

21 (2) have applied for all other available forms of State and
22 federal need-based grants and merit scholarships, exclusive of
23 loans, the full amount of which grants and scholarships shall be
24 applied to tuition, and fee charges if applicable, to reduce the
25 amount of any scholarship that the student shall receive under the
26 provisions of P.L.2005, c.359 (C.18A:71B-86.1 et seq.);

27 (3) except as otherwise provided pursuant to subsection h. of
28 this section, be enrolled in a full-time course of study at a four-year
29 public or independent institution of higher education; and

30 (4) maintain continuous enrollment in a full-time course of
31 study, unless on medical leave due to the illness of the student or a
32 member of the student's immediate family or emergency leave
33 because of a family emergency, which medical or emergency leave
34 shall have been approved by the four-year public or independent
35 institution of higher education, or unless called to partial or full
36 mobilization for State or federal active duty as a member of the
37 National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the
38 United States.

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

1 g. A student scholarship under the NJ STARS II Program may
2 be 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 this section.

5 h. Beginning in the 2015-2016 academic year, a student who
6 receives an NJ STARS II scholarship or a student who is already in
7 the NJ STARS II program shall be eligible to take less than 12
8 credits in a semester if ¹:¹ the student provides to the four-year
9 public or independent institution of higher education a written note
10 from a physician or other licensed health care professional
11 indicating the student's need to take a reduced number of credits
12 due to a physical or mental health condition ¹; or the student
13 provides to the institution, in such form as determined by the
14 authority, verification of the recent death of the student's parent or
15 spouse¹ . ²[A] To receive an NJ STARS II payment for the
16 semester, a² student who receives a medical exemption ¹or an
17 exemption due to the recent death of the student's parent or spouse¹
18 from the full-time course of study requirement pursuant to this
19 subsection shall ²[be eligible for additional semesters in the NJ
20 STARS II program, as necessary] enroll for a minimum of six
21 credits in the semester. A part-time NJ STARS II award shall be
22 prorated against the full-time NJ STARS award as follows: an
23 eligible student enrolled with six to eight credits shall receive one-
24 half of the value of a full-time award, and an eligible student
25 enrolled with nine to 11 credits shall receive three-quarters of a full-
26 time award. A student shall receive an additional semester of NJ
27 STARS II eligibility for each semester the student receives an
28 exemption from the full-time course of study requirement pursuant
29 to this subsection, not to exceed four additional semesters. Total NJ
30 STARS II payments shall not exceed \$5,000 for a student² .

31 (cf: P.L.2012, c.8, s.3)

32
33 4. This act shall take effect immediately.
34
35
36

37
38 _____
39 Allows NJ STARS and NJ STARS II scholarship recipients to
40 maintain program eligibility in the event that medical condition or
41 recent death of parent or spouse prevents enrollment as full-time
student.

ASSEMBLY, No. 2565

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 4, 2016

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblyman WAYNE P. DEANGELO

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex) Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman GABRIELA M. MOSQUERA

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by:

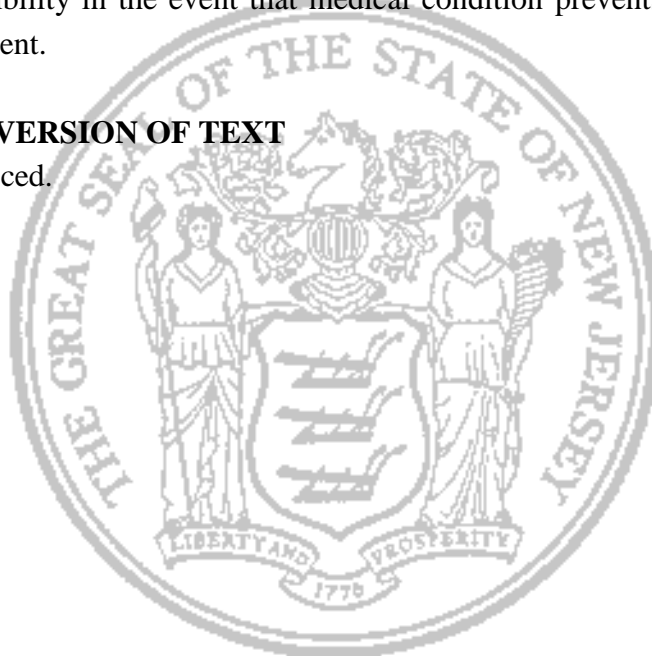
Assemblywoman Pinkin

SYNOPSIS

Allows NJ STARS and NJ STARS II scholarship recipients to maintain program eligibility in the event that medical condition prevents enrollment as full-time student.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



A2565 BENSON, DEANGELO

2

1 AN ACT concerning eligibility for the NJ STARS and NJ STARS II
2 Programs and amending P.L.2008, c.124, P.L.2004, c.59, and
3 P.L.2005, c.359.

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) has graduated high school and, in the case of a student who
37 graduates in the 2013-2014 school year and thereafter, whose class
38 rank at the completion of the 11th grade or 12th grade was in the
39 top 15.0% of the student's high school class, provided that in the
40 case of students graduating from high schools that do not calculate
41 the class rank of their students, the student's ranking at the
42 completion of the 11th grade or 12th grade shall be determined by
43 the high school in consultation with the authority; and

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

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 Education in consultation with the Commissioner of Education.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 the program, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.18A:71B-
2 10.

3 e. A student scholarship under the NJ STARS Program may be
4 renewed upon the student's filing of a renewal financial aid
5 application and providing evidence that the student has satisfied the
6 requirements pursuant to subsection b. of this section.
7 (cf: P.L.2014, c.55, s.1)

8
9 2. Section 3 of P.L.2008, c.124 (18A:71B-85.2) is amended to
10 read as follows:

11 3. a. A student who receives an NJ STARS scholarship shall be
12 eligible to take less than 12 credits in the final semester if the
13 county college determines that the student needs to complete less
14 than 12 credits in that semester to complete the degree program.

15 b. In the case of a student who is enrolled in an associate
16 degree program regularly requiring six semesters, the student shall
17 not receive an NJ STARS scholarship for the sixth semester but
18 shall maintain eligibility for the New Jersey Student Tuition
19 Assistance Reward Scholarship II (NJ STARS II) Program
20 established pursuant to P.L.2005, c.359 (C.18A:71B-86.1 et seq.),
21 provided that the student meets the requirements for receipt of an
22 NJ STARS II scholarship.

23 c. Beginning in the 2015-2016 academic year, a student who
24 receives an NJ STARS scholarship or a student who is already in
25 the NJ STARS program shall be eligible to take less than 12 credits
26 in a semester if the student provides to the county college a written
27 note from a physician or other licensed health care professional
28 indicating the student's need to take a reduced number of credits
29 due to a physical or mental health condition. A student who
30 receives a medical exemption from the full-time course of study
31 requirement pursuant to this subsection shall be eligible for
32 additional semesters in the NJ STARS program, as necessary.
33 (cf: P.L.2008, c.124, s.3)

34
35 3. Section 4 of P.L.2005, c.359 (C.18A:71B-86.4) is amended to
36 read as follows:

37 4. a. A scholarship under the NJ STARS II Program shall be
38 applied toward the cost of tuition or in the case of a student who
39 receives a Tuition Aid Grant toward the cost of tuition and fees,
40 subject to the prior application of other grants and scholarships
41 against such costs as provided under paragraph (2) of subsection e.
42 of this section, for an eligible student enrolled in a full-time course
43 of study at a New Jersey four-year public or independent institution
44 of higher education. A scholarship under the NJ STARS II Program
45 shall be paid to the institution in the amount of \$1,250 per semester.
46 The cost of a scholarship shall be paid 100% by the State. Any cost
47 of attendance that is not covered by the NJ STARS II scholarship or

1 other available forms of grants and scholarships shall be paid by the
2 student.

3 b. A student shall be eligible for a scholarship under the NJ
4 STARS II Program for up to four semesters, excluding summer
5 sessions, at a New Jersey four-year public or independent institution
6 of higher education.

7 c. A student shall be eligible to receive a scholarship under the
8 NJ STARS II Program for the student's third academic year of study
9 if the student: has an annual family income, both taxable and non-
10 taxable, as derived from the Free Application for Federal Student
11 Aid (FAFSA) for the academic year, of less than \$250,000; attained
12 an associate's degree from a New Jersey county college; except as
13 otherwise provided pursuant to subsection c. of section 2 and
14 subsection b. of section 3 of P.L.2008, c.124 (C.18A:71B-85.2),
15 received a scholarship under the "New Jersey Student Tuition
16 Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS) Program Act,"
17 P.L.2004, c.59 (C.18A:71B-81 et seq.), for each semester of study
18 in the county college, or was eligible for but did not receive a
19 scholarship under NJ STARS because the student's tuition was fully
20 covered by other State or federal need-based grants or merit
21 scholarships, or was eligible for but did not receive a scholarship
22 under NJ STARS because the student was enrolled while a high
23 school student in county college courses and received an associate's
24 degree in accordance with a joint program offered by the student's
25 school district and a county college; attains a cumulative grade
26 point average of at least 3.25 upon graduation from county college;
27 enrolls in a baccalaureate degree program at a New Jersey four-year
28 public or independent institution of higher education for the third
29 academic year of study in the academic year immediately following
30 the student's attainment of an associate's degree; and meets the
31 criteria set forth in subsection e. of this section. A grade for credits
32 earned during a summer semester shall for the purposes of this
33 subsection be included in the calculation of the cumulative grade
34 point average.

35 d. A student shall be eligible to receive a scholarship under the
36 NJ STARS II Program for the student's fourth academic year of
37 study if the student: received a scholarship under the NJ STARS II
38 Program for the student's third academic year of study pursuant to
39 subsection c. of this section; based on the student's performance
40 during the third academic year of study, attained a grade point
41 average of at least 3.25; and meets the criteria set forth in
42 subsection e. of this section. A grade for credits earned during a
43 summer semester shall for the purposes of this subsection be
44 included in the calculation of the grade point average for the
45 preceding academic year.

46 e. To be eligible to receive a scholarship under the NJ STARS
47 II Program, a student shall:

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

8 (2) have applied for all other available forms of State and
9 federal need-based grants and merit scholarships, exclusive of
10 loans, the full amount of which grants and scholarships shall be
11 applied to tuition, and fee charges if applicable, to reduce the
12 amount of any scholarship that the student shall receive under the
13 provisions of P.L.2005, c.359 (C.18A:71B-86.1 et seq.);

14 (3) except as otherwise provided pursuant to subsection h. of
15 this section, be enrolled in a full-time course of study at a four-year
16 public or independent institution of higher education; and

17 (4) maintain continuous enrollment in a full-time course of
18 study, unless on medical leave due to the illness of the student or a
19 member of the student's immediate family or emergency leave
20 because of a family emergency, which medical or emergency leave
21 shall have been approved by the four-year public or independent
22 institution of higher education, or unless called to partial or full
23 mobilization for State or federal active duty as a member of the
24 National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the
25 United States.

26 f. A student who is dismissed for academic or disciplinary
27 reasons from a four-year public or independent institution of higher
28 education shall no longer be eligible for a scholarship under this
29 act. If a student participating in the program is dismissed for
30 disciplinary reasons, the student shall repay in full all amounts
31 received under the program. The four-year public or independent
32 institution of higher education shall be responsible for collecting the
33 repayment, or the amount of any overpayment or other improper
34 payment, of any State awards under the program, in accordance
35 with the provisions of N.J.S.18A:71B-10.

36 g. A student scholarship under the NJ STARS II Program may
37 be renewed upon the student's filing of a renewal financial aid
38 application and providing evidence that the student has satisfied the
39 requirements pursuant to this section.

40 h. Beginning in the 2015-2016 academic year, a student who
41 receives an NJ STARS II scholarship or a student who is already in
42 the NJ STARS II program shall be eligible to take less than 12
43 credits in a semester if the student provides to the four-year public
44 or independent institution of higher education a written note from a
45 physician or other licensed health care professional indicating the
46 student's need to take a reduced number of credits due to a physical
47 or mental health condition. A student who receives a medical
48 exemption from the full-time course of study requirement pursuant

1 to this subsection shall be eligible for additional semesters in the
2 NJ STARS II program, as necessary.

3 (cf: P.L.2012, c.8, s.3)

4

5 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

9

10 Under current law, a recipient of an NJ STARS or NJ STARS II
11 scholarship must maintain status as a full-time student unless on a
12 medical leave or emergency leave or unless called to partial or full
13 mobilization for State or federal active duty as a member of the
14 National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the
15 United States. This bill provides that a student who receives a
16 scholarship or is already in the program is eligible to take less than
17 12 credits in a semester if the student presents to the institution at
18 which the student is enrolled a written note from a physician or
19 other licensed health care professional indicating the student's need
20 to take a reduced number of credits due to a physical or mental
21 health condition. A student who receives a medical exemption from
22 the full-time course of study requirement will be eligible for
23 additional semesters in the scholarship program, as necessary.

ASSEMBLY HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2565

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 4, 2016

The Assembly Higher Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2565 with committee amendments.

Under current law, a recipient of an NJ STARS or NJ STARS II scholarship must maintain status as a full-time student unless on a medical leave or emergency leave or unless called to partial or full mobilization for State or federal active duty as a member of the National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States. As amended, this bill provides that a student who receives a scholarship or is already in the program is eligible to take less than 12 credits in a semester if: the student presents to the institution at which the student is enrolled a written note from a physician or other licensed health care professional indicating the student's need to take a reduced number of credits due to a physical or mental health condition; or if the student provides to the institution verification of the recent death of the student's parent or spouse. A student who receives a medical exemption, or an exemption due to the recent death of the student's parent or spouse, from the full-time course of study requirement will be eligible for additional semesters in the scholarship program, as necessary.

The committee amended the bill to allow NJ STARS and NJ STARS II scholarship recipients to maintain program eligibility in the event that the recent death of the student's parent or spouse prevents enrollment as a full-time student.

SENATE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[Second Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 2565

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 11, 2017

The Senate Higher Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2565 (2R).

Under current law, a recipient of an NJ STARS or NJ STARS II scholarship must maintain status as a full-time student unless on a medical leave or emergency leave or unless called to partial or full mobilization for State or federal active duty as a member of the National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States. As amended, this bill provides that a student who receives a scholarship or is already in the program is eligible to take less than 12 credits in a semester if: the student presents to the institution at which the student is enrolled a written note from a physician or other licensed health care professional indicating the student's need to take a reduced number of credits due to a physical or mental health condition; or if the student provides to the institution verification of the recent death of the student's parent or spouse. A student who receives a medical exemption, or an exemption due to the recent death of the student's parent or spouse, from the full-time course of study requirement will be eligible for additional semesters in the scholarship program, as necessary.

The bill provides that an NJ STARS or NJ STARS II scholarship recipient who takes less than 12 credits in a semester due to a physical or mental health condition, or because of the recent death of the student's parent or spouse: (1) must take a minimum of six credits a semester to receive an NJ STARS or NJ STARS II payment for that semester; and (2) will receive an additional semester of eligibility for each semester that the student receives an exemption from the full-time course of study requirement. The amount of NJ STARS II scholarship awards for part-time students will be prorated so that students who take six to eight credits a semester will receive one-half of the value of a full-time award, and students who take nine to 11 credits will receive three-quarters of a full-time award. The current statutory cap on the total amount of NJ STARS II payments, \$5,000 per student, remains in effect regardless of a student's part-time status.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 888, which was amended and also reported by the committee on this same date.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[Second Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 2565

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 18, 2017

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2565 (2R).

This bill allows NJ STARS and NJ STARS II scholarship recipients to maintain program eligibility in the event that certain circumstances prevent a student from maintaining full-time enrollment.

Under current law, a recipient of an NJ STARS or NJ STARS II scholarship must maintain status as a full-time student (at least unless 12 credit hours) unless on a medical leave or emergency leave or unless called to partial or full mobilization for State or federal active duty as a member of the National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States. This bill would allow a student to receive a scholarship while taking no less than six credits if: 1) the student documents, through a written note from a physician or licensed health care professional, a need to take fewer credits due to a physical or mental health condition, or 2) the student verifies the recent death of a parent or spouse. A student who receives such an exemption will be eligible for one additional semester in the scholarship program for each semester for which the student received the exemption, up to a maximum of five additional semesters for NJ STARS, and four additional semesters for NJ STARS II.

As reported, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 888 (1R), as also reported by the committee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) notes that this bill would lead to an indeterminate increase in State expenditures as the bill would provide scholarships to students who would otherwise be made ineligible under current law. However, the OLS is not able to predict the number of students who would take a reduced number of credits either due to a physical or mental health condition or due to the death of a parent or spouse.

STATEMENT TO
[First Reprint]
ASSEMBLY, No. 2565

with Assembly Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Assemblyman BENSON)

ADOPTED: MARCH 14, 2016

These floor amendments provide that an NJ STARS or NJ STARS II scholarship recipient who takes less than 12 credits in a semester due to a physical or mental health condition, or because of the recent death of the student's parent or spouse: (1) must take a minimum of six credits a semester to receive an NJ STARS or NJ STARS II payment for that semester; and (2) will receive an additional semester of eligibility for each semester that the student receives an exemption from the full-time course of study requirement. The amendments also prorate the amount of NJ STARS II scholarship awards for part-time students so that students who take six to eight credits a semester will receive one-half of the value of a full-time award, and students who take nine to 11 credits will receive three-quarters of a full-time award. The amendments clarify that the current statutory cap on the total amount of NJ STARS II payments, \$5,000 per student, remains in effect regardless of a student's part-time status.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 2565

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

DATED: FEBRUARY 25, 2016

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Allows NJ STARS and NJ STARS II scholarship recipients to maintain program eligibility in the event that medical condition or recent death of parent or spouse prevents enrollment as full-time student.
- Type of Impact:** Expenditure Increase in General Fund
- Agencies Affected:** New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

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

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) notes that Assembly Bill No. 2565 (1R) would lead to an indeterminate increase in State expenditures. The bill would provide scholarships to students who would otherwise be made ineligible under current law. However, the OLS is not able to predict the number of students who would take a reduced number of credits either due to a physical or mental health condition or due to the death of a parent or spouse.

BILL DESCRIPTION

Under current law, one condition of receiving a scholarship under one of the New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarships programs (NJ STARS for students enrolled in a county college, and NJ STARS II for students who subsequently enroll in a four-year college), a student must enroll in a course of study that includes at least 12 credit hours in a semester. Assembly Bill No. 2565 (1R) of 2016 would allow a student to receive a scholarship while taking less than 12 credits if: 1) the student documents, through a written note from a physician or licensed health care professional, a need to take fewer credits due to a physical or mental health condition, or 2) the student verifies the recent death of a parent or spouse. A student who receives such an exemption will be eligible for additional semesters in the scholarship program, as necessary.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS notes that Assembly Bill No. 2565 (1R) would lead to an increase in State expenditures. Under current law, a scholarship recipient under the NJ STARS and NJ STARS II programs is, under most circumstances, required to maintain continuous enrollment in a full-time course of study, defined as a minimum of 12 credit hours in a semester. To the extent that Assembly Bill No. 2565 (1R) would allow a student to retain a scholarship, despite enrolling in fewer than 12 credit hours, or allows the student additional semesters of scholarship eligibility, the bill would lead to an increase in State expenditures. However, the OLS is not able to estimate the potential cost, as it does not have information regarding the potential number of students who would be impacted by the bill's provisions.

Section: Education

*Analyst: Allen T. Dupree
Principal Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: Frank W. Haines III
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

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

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[Second Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 2565

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

DATED: APRIL 12, 2016

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Allows NJ STARS and NJ STARS II scholarship recipients to maintain program eligibility in the event that medical condition or recent death of parent or spouse prevents enrollment as full-time student.
- Type of Impact:** Expenditure Increase in General Fund
- Agencies Affected:** New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

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

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) notes that Assembly Bill No. 2565 (2R) would lead to an indeterminate increase in State expenditures. The bill would provide scholarships to students who would otherwise be made ineligible under current law. However, the OLS is not able to predict the number of students who would take a reduced number of credits either due to a physical or mental health condition or due to the death of a parent or spouse.

BILL DESCRIPTION

Under current law, one condition of receiving a scholarship under one of the New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarships programs (NJ STARS for students enrolled in a county college, and NJ STARS II for students who subsequently enroll in a four-year college), a student must enroll in a course of study that includes at least 12 credit hours in a semester. Assembly Bill No. 2565 (2R) of 2016 would allow a student to receive a scholarship while taking no less than six credits if: 1) the student documents, through a written note from a physician or licensed health care professional, a need to take fewer credits due to a physical or mental health condition, or 2) the student verifies the recent death of a parent or spouse. A student who receives such an exemption will be eligible for one additional semester in the scholarship program for each semester for which the student received the exemption, up to a

maximum of five additional semesters for NJ STARS, and four additional semesters for NJ STARS II.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS notes that Assembly Bill No. 2565 (2R) would lead to an increase in State expenditures. Under current law, a scholarship recipient under the NJ STARS and NJ STARS II programs is, under most circumstances, required to maintain continuous enrollment in a full-time course of study, defined as a minimum of 12 credit hours in a semester. To the extent that Assembly Bill No. 2565 (2R) would allow a student to retain a scholarship, despite enrolling in fewer than 12 credit hours, or allows the student additional semesters of scholarship eligibility, the bill would lead to an increase in State expenditures. However, the OLS is not able to estimate the potential cost, as it does not have information regarding the potential number of students who would be impacted by the bill's provisions.

Section: Education

*Analyst: Allen T. Dupree
Principal Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: Frank W. Haines III
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

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

SENATE, No. 888

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2016 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Senator THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

SYNOPSIS

Allows NJ STARS and NJ STARS II scholarship recipients to maintain program eligibility in the event that medical condition prevents enrollment as full-time student.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/2/2017)

1 AN ACT concerning eligibility for the NJ STARS and NJ STARS II
2 Programs and amending P.L.2008, c.124, P.L.2004, c.59, and
3 P.L.2005, c.359.
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) has graduated high school and, in the case of a student who
37 graduates in the 2013-2014 school year and thereafter, whose class
38 rank at the completion of the 11th grade or 12th grade was in the
39 top 15.0% of the student's high school class, provided that in the
40 case of students graduating from high schools that do not calculate
41 the class rank of their students, the student's ranking at the
42 completion of the 11th grade or 12th grade shall be determined by
43 the high school in consultation with the authority; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

44 d. A student who is dismissed for academic or disciplinary
45 reasons from a county college shall no longer be eligible for a
46 scholarship under this act. If a student participating in the program
47 is dismissed for disciplinary reasons, the student shall repay in full
48 all amounts received under the program. The county college shall

1 be responsible for collecting the repayment, or the amount of any
2 overpayment or other improper payment, of any State awards under
3 the program, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.18A:71B-
4 10.

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

9 (cf: P.L.2014, c.55, s.1)

10

11 2. Section 3 of P.L.2008, c.124 (18A:71B-85.2) is amended to
12 read as follows:

13 3. a. A student who receives an NJ STARS scholarship shall
14 be eligible to take less than 12 credits in the final semester if the
15 county college determines that the student needs to complete less
16 than 12 credits in that semester to complete the degree program.

17 b. In the case of a student who is enrolled in an associate
18 degree program regularly requiring six semesters, the student shall
19 not receive an NJ STARS scholarship for the sixth semester but
20 shall maintain eligibility for the New Jersey Student Tuition
21 Assistance Reward Scholarship II (NJ STARS II) Program
22 established pursuant to P.L.2005, c.359 (C.18A:71B-86.1 et seq.),
23 provided that the student meets the requirements for receipt of an
24 NJ STARS II scholarship.

25 c. Beginning in the 2015-2016 academic year, a student who
26 receives an NJ STARS scholarship or a student who is already in
27 the NJ STARS program shall be eligible to take less than 12 credits
28 in a semester if the student provides to the county college a written
29 note from a physician or other licensed health care professional
30 indicating the student's need to take a reduced number of credits
31 due to a physical or mental health condition. A student who
32 receives a medical exemption from the full-time course of study
33 requirement pursuant to this subsection shall be eligible for
34 additional semesters in the NJ STARS program, as necessary.

35 (cf: P.L.2008, c.124, s.3)

36

37 3. Section 4 of P.L.2005, c.359 (C.18A:71B-86.4) is amended
38 to read as follows:

39 4. a. A scholarship under the NJ STARS II Program shall be
40 applied toward the cost of tuition or in the case of a student who
41 receives a Tuition Aid Grant toward the cost of tuition and fees,
42 subject to the prior application of other grants and scholarships
43 against such costs as provided under paragraph (2) of subsection e.
44 of this section, for an eligible student enrolled in a full-time course
45 of study at a New Jersey four-year public or independent institution
46 of higher education. A scholarship under the NJ STARS II Program
47 shall be paid to the institution in the amount of \$1,250 per semester.
48 The cost of a scholarship shall be paid 100% by the State. Any cost

1 of attendance that is not covered by the NJ STARS II scholarship or
2 other available forms of grants and scholarships shall be paid by the
3 student.

4 b. A student shall be eligible for a scholarship under the NJ
5 STARS II Program for up to four semesters, excluding summer
6 sessions, at a New Jersey four-year public or independent institution
7 of higher education.

8 c. A student shall be eligible to receive a scholarship under the
9 NJ STARS II Program for the student's third academic year of study
10 if the student: has an annual family income, both taxable and non-
11 taxable, as derived from the Free Application for Federal Student
12 Aid (FAFSA) for the academic year, of less than \$250,000; attained
13 an associate's degree from a New Jersey county college; except as
14 otherwise provided pursuant to subsection c. of section 2 and
15 subsection b. of section 3 of P.L.2008, c.124 (C.18A:71B-85.2),
16 received a scholarship under the "New Jersey Student Tuition
17 Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS) Program Act,"
18 P.L.2004, c.59 (C.18A:71B-81 et seq.), for each semester of study
19 in the county college, or was eligible for but did not receive a
20 scholarship under NJ STARS because the student's tuition was fully
21 covered by other State or federal need-based grants or merit
22 scholarships, or was eligible for but did not receive a scholarship
23 under NJ STARS because the student was enrolled while a high
24 school student in county college courses and received an associate's
25 degree in accordance with a joint program offered by the student's
26 school district and a county college; attains a cumulative grade
27 point average of at least 3.25 upon graduation from county college;
28 enrolls in a baccalaureate degree program at a New Jersey four-year
29 public or independent institution of higher education for the third
30 academic year of study in the academic year immediately following
31 the student's attainment of an associate's degree; and meets the
32 criteria set forth in subsection e. of this section. A grade for credits
33 earned during a summer semester shall for the purposes of this
34 subsection be included in the calculation of the cumulative grade
35 point average.

36 d. A student shall be eligible to receive a scholarship under the
37 NJ STARS II Program for the student's fourth academic year of
38 study if the student: received a scholarship under the NJ STARS II
39 Program for the student's third academic year of study pursuant to
40 subsection c. of this section; based on the student's performance
41 during the third academic year of study, attained a grade point
42 average of at least 3.25; and meets the criteria set forth in
43 subsection e. of this section. A grade for credits earned during a
44 summer semester shall for the purposes of this subsection be
45 included in the calculation of the grade point average for the
46 preceding academic year.

47 e. To be eligible to receive a scholarship under the NJ STARS
48 II Program, a student shall:

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

8 (2) have applied for all other available forms of State and
9 federal need-based grants and merit scholarships, exclusive of
10 loans, the full amount of which grants and scholarships shall be
11 applied to tuition, and fee charges if applicable, to reduce the
12 amount of any scholarship that the student shall receive under the
13 provisions of P.L.2005, c.359 (C.18A:71B-86.1 et seq.);

14 (3) except as otherwise provided pursuant to subsection h. of
15 this section, be enrolled in a full-time course of study at a four-year
16 public or independent institution of higher education; and

17 (4) maintain continuous enrollment in a full-time course of
18 study, unless on medical leave due to the illness of the student or a
19 member of the student's immediate family or emergency leave
20 because of a family emergency, which medical or emergency leave
21 shall have been approved by the four-year public or independent
22 institution of higher education, or unless called to partial or full
23 mobilization for State or federal active duty as a member of the
24 National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the
25 United States.

26 f. A student who is dismissed for academic or disciplinary
27 reasons from a four-year public or independent institution of higher
28 education shall no longer be eligible for a scholarship under this
29 act. If a student participating in the program is dismissed for
30 disciplinary reasons, the student shall repay in full all amounts
31 received under the program. The four-year public or independent
32 institution of higher education shall be responsible for collecting the
33 repayment, or the amount of any overpayment or other improper
34 payment, of any State awards under the program, in accordance
35 with the provisions of N.J.S.18A:71B-10.

36 g. A student scholarship under the NJ STARS II Program may
37 be renewed upon the student's filing of a renewal financial aid
38 application and providing evidence that the student has satisfied the
39 requirements pursuant to this section.

40 h. Beginning in the 2015-2016 academic year, a student who
41 receives an NJ STARS II scholarship or a student who is already in
42 the NJ STARS II program shall be eligible to take less than 12
43 credits in a semester if the student provides to the four-year public
44 or independent institution of higher education a written note from a
45 physician or other licensed health care professional indicating the
46 student's need to take a reduced number of credits due to a physical
47 or mental health condition. A student who receives a medical
48 exemption from the full-time course of study requirement pursuant

1 to this subsection shall be eligible for additional semesters in the
2 NJ STARS II program, as necessary.

3 (cf: P.L.2012, c.8, s.3)

4

5 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

6

7

8

STATEMENT

9

10 Under current law, a recipient of an NJ STARS or NJ STARS II
11 scholarship must maintain status as a full-time student unless on a
12 medical leave or emergency leave or unless called to partial or full
13 mobilization for State or federal active duty as a member of the
14 National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the
15 United States. This bill provides that a student who receives a
16 scholarship or is already in the program is eligible to take less than
17 12 credits in a semester if the student presents to the institution at
18 which the student is enrolled a written note from a physician or
19 other licensed health care professional indicating the student's need
20 to take a reduced number of credits due to a physical or mental
21 health condition. A student who receives a medical exemption from
22 the full-time course of study requirement will be eligible for
23 additional semesters in the scholarship program, as necessary.

SENATE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 888

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 11, 2017

The Senate Higher Education Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 888 with committee amendments.

Under current law, a recipient of an NJ STARS or NJ STARS II scholarship must maintain status as a full-time student unless on a medical leave or emergency leave or unless called to partial or full mobilization for State or federal active duty as a member of the National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States. As amended, this bill provides that a student who receives a scholarship or is already in the program is eligible to take less than 12 credits in a semester if: the student presents to the institution at which the student is enrolled a written note from a physician or other licensed health care professional indicating the student's need to take a reduced number of credits due to a physical or mental health condition; or if the student provides to the institution verification of the recent death of the student's parent or spouse. A student who receives a medical exemption, or an exemption due to the recent death of the student's parent or spouse, from the full-time course of study requirement will be eligible for additional semesters in the scholarship program, as necessary.

As amended, the bill provides that an NJ STARS or NJ STARS II scholarship recipient who takes less than 12 credits in a semester due to a physical or mental health condition, or because of the recent death of the student's parent or spouse: (1) must take a minimum of six credits a semester to receive an NJ STARS or NJ STARS II payment for that semester; and (2) will receive an additional semester of eligibility for each semester that the student receives an exemption from the full-time course of study requirement. The amount of NJ STARS II scholarship awards for part-time students will be prorated so that students who take six to eight credits a semester will receive one-half of the value of a full-time award, and students who take nine to 11 credits will receive three-quarters of a full-time award. The current statutory cap on the total amount of NJ STARS II payments, \$5,000 per student, remains in effect regardless of a student's part-time status.

The committee amended the bill to allow NJ STARS and NJ STARS II scholarship recipients to maintain program eligibility in the event that the recent death of the student's parent or spouse prevents

enrollment as a full-time student. The committee also amended the bill to provide that an NJ STARS or NJ STARS II scholarship recipient who takes less than 12 credits in a semester due to an allowed medical or bereavement exemption: (1) must take a minimum of six credits a semester to receive an NJ STARS or NJ STARS II payment for that semester; and (2) will receive an additional semester of eligibility for each semester that the student receives an exemption from the full-time course of study requirement. The amendments also provide for the prorating of the amount of NJ STARS II scholarship awards for part-time students and clarify that the current statutory cap on the total amount of NJ STARS II payments, \$5,000 per student, remains in effect regardless of a student's part-time status.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 2565(2R), which was also reported by the committee on this same date.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2016-2017 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 888

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 18, 2017

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 888 (1R).

This bill allows NJ STARS and NJ STARS II scholarship recipients to maintain program eligibility in the event that certain circumstances prevent a student from maintaining full-time enrollment.

Under current law, a recipient of an NJ STARS or NJ STARS II scholarship must maintain status as a full-time student (at least unless 12 credit hours) unless on a medical leave or emergency leave or unless called to partial or full mobilization for State or federal active duty as a member of the National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States. This bill would allow a student to receive a scholarship while taking no less than six credits if: 1) the student documents, through a written note from a physician or licensed health care professional, a need to take fewer credits due to a physical or mental health condition, or 2) the student verifies the recent death of a parent or spouse. A student who receives such an exemption will be eligible for one additional semester in the scholarship program for each semester for which the student received the exemption, up to a maximum of five additional semesters for NJ STARS, and four additional semesters for NJ STARS II.

As reported, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 2565 (2R), as also reported by the committee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) notes that this bill would lead to an indeterminate increase in State expenditures as the bill would provide scholarships to students who would otherwise be made ineligible under current law. However, the OLS is not able to predict the number of students who would take a reduced number of credits either due to a physical or mental health condition or due to the death of a parent or spouse.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 888

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

DATED: DECEMBER 19, 2017

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Allows NJ STARS and NJ STARS II scholarship recipients to maintain program eligibility in the event that medical condition or recent death of parent or spouse prevents enrollment as full-time student.
- Type of Impact:** Expenditure Increase in General Fund
- Agencies Affected:** New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

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

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) notes that Senate Bill No. 888 (1R) would lead to an indeterminate increase in State expenditures. The bill would provide scholarships to students who would otherwise be made ineligible under current law. However, the OLS is not able to predict the number of students who would take a reduced number of credits either due to a physical or mental health condition or due to the death of a parent or spouse.

BILL DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill No. 888 (1R) of 2016 under current law, one condition of receiving a scholarship under one of the New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarships programs (NJ STARS for students enrolled in a county college, and NJ STARS II for students who subsequently enroll in a four-year college), a student must enroll in a course of study that includes at least 12 credit hours in a semester. Senate Bill No. 888 (1R) of 2016 would allow a student to receive a scholarship while taking no less than six credits if: 1) the student documents, through a written note from a physician or licensed health care professional, a need to take fewer credits due to a physical or mental health condition, or 2) the student verifies the recent death of a parent or spouse. A student who receives such an exemption will be eligible for one additional semester in the scholarship program for each semester for which the student received the

exemption, up to a maximum of five additional semesters for NJ STARS, and four additional semesters for NJ STARS II.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS notes that Senate Bill No. 888 (1R) would lead to an increase in State expenditures. Under current law, a scholarship recipient under the NJ STARS and NJ STARS II programs is, under most circumstances, required to maintain continuous enrollment in a full-time course of study, defined as a minimum of 12 credit hours in a semester. To the extent that Senate Bill No. 888 (1R) would allow a student to retain a scholarship, despite enrolling in fewer than 12 credit hours, or allows the student additional semesters of scholarship eligibility, the bill would lead to an increase in State expenditures. However, the OLS is not able to estimate the potential cost, as it does not have information regarding the potential number of students who would be impacted by the bill's provisions.

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.).