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Yes

"New laws boost county college-employer collaboration; clarify NJSTARS,"
NJBIZ (New Brunswick, NJ) - August 9, 2019

RWH

P.L. 2019, CHAPTER 232, *approved August 9, 2019*
Assembly, No. 4115

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

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. Section 3 of P.L.2008, c.124 (C.18A:71B-85.2) is amended
8 to read as follows:

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

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

21 c. Beginning in the 2015-2016 academic year, a student **[**who
22 receives an NJ STARS scholarship or a student who is already in
23 the NJ STARS program**]** shall be eligible to participate in the NJ
24 STARS program and take less than 12 credits in a semester if: the
25 student provides to the county college a written note from a
26 physician or other licensed health care professional indicating the
27 student's need to take a reduced number of credits due to a physical
28 or mental health condition; or the student provides to the county
29 college, in such form as determined by the authority, verification of
30 the recent death of the student's parent or spouse. To receive an NJ
31 STARS payment for the semester, a student who receives a medical
32 exemption or an exemption due to the recent death of the student's
33 parent or spouse from the full-time course of study requirement
34 pursuant to this subsection shall enroll for a minimum of six credits
35 in the semester. A student shall receive an additional semester of
36 NJ STARS eligibility for each semester the student receives an
37 exemption from the full-time course of study requirement pursuant
38 to this subsection, not to exceed five additional semesters.
39 (cf: P.L.2017, c.360, s.2)

40
41 2. Section 4 of P.L.2005, c.359 (C.18A:71B-86.4) is amended
42 to read as follows:

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

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

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

46 d. A student shall be eligible to receive a scholarship under the
47 NJ STARS II Program for the student's fourth academic year of
48 study if the student: received a scholarship under the NJ STARS II

1 Program for the student's third academic year of study pursuant to
2 subsection c. of this section; based on the student's performance
3 during the third academic year of study, attained a grade point
4 average of at least 3.25; and meets the criteria set forth in
5 subsection e. of this section. A grade for credits earned during a
6 summer semester shall for the purposes of this subsection be
7 included in the calculation of the grade point average for the
8 preceding academic year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

46 g. A student scholarship under the NJ STARS II Program may
47 be renewed upon the student's filing of a renewal financial aid

1 application and providing evidence that the student has satisfied the
2 requirements pursuant to this section.

3 h. Beginning in the 2015-2016 academic year, a student [who
4 receives an NJ STARS II scholarship or a student who is already in
5 the NJ STARS II program] shall be eligible to participate in the NJ
6 STARS II program and take less than 12 credits in a semester if: the
7 student provides to the four-year public or independent institution
8 of higher education a written note from a physician or other
9 licensed health care professional indicating the student's need to
10 take a reduced number of credits due to a physical or mental health
11 condition; or the student provides to the institution, in such form as
12 determined by the authority, verification of the recent death of the
13 student's parent or spouse. To receive an NJ STARS II payment for
14 the semester, a student who receives a medical exemption or an
15 exemption due to the recent death of the student's parent or spouse
16 from the full-time course of study requirement pursuant to this
17 subsection shall enroll for a minimum of six credits in the semester.
18 A part-time NJ STARS II award shall be prorated against the full-
19 time NJ STARS award as follows: an eligible student enrolled with
20 six to eight credits shall receive one-half of the value of a full-time
21 award, and an eligible student enrolled with nine to 11 credits shall
22 receive three-quarters of a full-time award. A student shall receive
23 an additional semester of NJ STARS II eligibility for each semester
24 the student receives an exemption from the full-time course of study
25 requirement pursuant to this subsection, not to exceed four
26 additional semesters. Total NJ STARS II payments shall not exceed
27 \$5,000 for a student.
28 (cf: P.L.2017, c.360, s.3)

29

30 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

31

32

33

STATEMENT

34

35 Prior to the passage of P.L.2017, c.360, a recipient of an NJ
36 STARS or NJ STARS II scholarship was required to maintain status
37 as a full-time student (at least 12 credit hours) unless on a medical
38 leave or emergency leave 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. P.L.2017, c.360 allows a student to receive a
42 scholarship under NJ STARS and NJ STARS II while enrolled part-
43 time and taking no less than six credits, if the student documents a
44 need to take fewer credits due to a physical or mental health
45 condition or the student verifies the recent death of a parent or
46 spouse. This bill would clarify the original intent of P.L.2017,
47 c.360 by ensuring that a student who meets the criteria of that law
48 would be eligible for a scholarship under NJ STARS and NJ

A4115

1 STARS II upon initial enrollment on a part-time basis in a county
2 college or four-year institution of higher education. The law as
3 enacted was unclear on whether students could receive a
4 scholarship when they were enrolling for the first time at a county
5 college or four-year college or university on a part-time basis.

6

7

8

9

10 Clarifies that certain students are eligible for NJ STARS and NJ
11 STARS II scholarship upon initial enrollment at institution of
12 higher education on part-time basis.

ASSEMBLY, No. 4115

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 7, 2018

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblyman WAYNE P. DEANGELO

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblyman JAMEL C. HOLLEY

District 20 (Union)

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywomen Jasey, Murphy, Downey and Senator Turner

SYNOPSIS

Clarifies that certain students are eligible for NJ STARS and NJ STARS II scholarship upon initial enrollment at institution of higher education on part-time basis.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/28/2019)

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

3

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

6

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

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

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

21 c. Beginning in the 2015-2016 academic year, a student **【**who
22 receives an NJ STARS scholarship or a student who is already in
23 the NJ STARS program**】** shall be eligible to participate in the NJ
24 STARS program and take less than 12 credits in a semester if: the
25 student provides to the county college a written note from a
26 physician or other licensed health care professional indicating the
27 student's need to take a reduced number of credits due to a physical
28 or mental health condition; or the student provides to the county
29 college, in such form as determined by the authority, verification of
30 the recent death of the student's parent or spouse. To receive an NJ
31 STARS payment for the semester, a student who receives a medical
32 exemption or an exemption due to the recent death of the student's
33 parent or spouse from the full-time course of study requirement
34 pursuant to this subsection shall enroll for a minimum of six credits
35 in the semester. A student shall receive an additional semester of
36 NJ STARS eligibility for each semester the student receives an
37 exemption from the full-time course of study requirement pursuant
38 to this subsection, not to exceed five additional semesters.

39 (cf: P.L.2017, c.360, s.2)

40

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

43 4. a. A scholarship under the NJ STARS II Program shall be
44 applied toward the cost of tuition or in the case of a student who
45 receives a Tuition Aid Grant toward the cost of tuition and fees,

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

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

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

43 d. A student shall be eligible to receive a scholarship under the
44 NJ STARS II Program for the student's fourth academic year of
45 study if the student: received a scholarship under the NJ STARS II
46 Program for the student's third academic year of study pursuant to
47 subsection c. of this section; based on the student's performance

1 during the third academic year of study, attained a grade point
2 average of at least 3.25; and meets the criteria set forth in
3 subsection e. of this section. A grade for credits earned during a
4 summer semester shall for the purposes of this subsection be
5 included in the calculation of the grade point average for the
6 preceding academic year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 (cf: P.L.2017, c.360, s.3)

27
28 3. This act shall take effect immediately.
29
30

31 STATEMENT

32
33 Prior to the passage of P.L.2017, c.360, a recipient of an NJ
34 STARS or NJ STARS II scholarship was required to maintain status
35 as a full-time student (at least 12 credit hours) unless on a medical
36 leave or emergency leave or unless called to partial or full
37 mobilization for State or federal active duty as a member of the
38 National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the
39 United States. P.L.2017, c.360 allows a student to receive a
40 scholarship under NJ STARS and NJ STARS II while enrolled part-
41 time and taking no less than six credits, if the student documents a
42 need to take fewer credits due to a physical or mental health
43 condition or the student verifies the recent death of a parent or
44 spouse. This bill would clarify the original intent of P.L.2017,
45 c.360 by ensuring that a student who meets the criteria of that law
46 would be eligible for a scholarship under NJ STARS and NJ
47 STARS II upon initial enrollment on a part-time basis in a county
48 college or four-year institution of higher education. The law as

A4115 BENSON, DEANGELO

6

1 enacted was unclear on whether students could receive a
2 scholarship when they were enrolling for the first time at a county
3 college or four-year college or university on a part-time basis.

ASSEMBLY HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4115

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 15, 2018

The Assembly Higher Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4115.

Prior to the passage of P.L.2017, c.360, a recipient of an NJ STARS or NJ STARS II scholarship was required to maintain status as a full-time student (at least 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. P.L.2017, c.360 allows a student to receive a scholarship under NJ STARS and NJ STARS II while enrolled part-time and taking no less than six credits, if the student documents a need to take fewer credits due to a physical or mental health condition or the student verifies the recent death of a parent or spouse.

This bill would clarify the original intent of P.L.2017, c.360 by ensuring that a student who meets the criteria of that law would be eligible for a scholarship under NJ STARS and NJ STARS II upon initial enrollment on a part-time basis in a county college or four-year institution of higher education. The law as enacted was unclear on whether students could receive a scholarship when they were enrolling for the first time at a county college or four-year college or university on a part-time basis.

SENATE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4115

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 6, 2019

The Senate Higher Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4115.

Prior to the passage of P.L.2017, c.360, a recipient of an NJ STARS or NJ STARS II scholarship was required to maintain status as a full-time student (at least 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. P.L.2017, c.360 allows a student to receive a scholarship under NJ STARS and NJ STARS II while enrolled part-time and taking no less than six credits, if the student documents a need to take fewer credits due to a physical or mental health condition or the student verifies the recent death of a parent or spouse.

This bill would clarify the original intent of P.L.2017, c.360 by ensuring that a student who meets the criteria of that law would be eligible for a scholarship under NJ STARS and NJ STARS II upon initial enrollment on a part-time basis in a county college or four-year institution of higher education. The law as enacted was unclear on whether students could receive a scholarship when they were enrolling for the first time at a county college or four-year college or university on a part-time basis.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 2787, which also was reported by the committee on this same date.

SENATE, No. 2787

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 25, 2018

Sponsored by:

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN
District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Turner

SYNOPSIS

Clarifies that certain students are eligible for NJ STARS and NJ STARS II scholarship upon initial enrollment at institution of higher education on part-time basis.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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37 exemption from the full-time course of study requirement pursuant
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39 (cf: P.L.2017, c.360, s.2)

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Matter underlined thus is new matter.

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

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

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

43 d. A student shall be eligible to receive a scholarship under the
44 NJ STARS II Program for the student's fourth academic year of
45 study if the student: received a scholarship under the NJ STARS II
46 Program for the student's third academic year of study pursuant to
47 subsection c. of this section; based on the student's performance
48 during the third academic year of study, attained a grade point

1 average of at least 3.25; and meets the criteria set forth in
2 subsection e. of this section. A grade for credits earned during a
3 summer semester shall for the purposes of this subsection be
4 included in the calculation of the grade point average for the
5 preceding academic year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

47 h. Beginning in the 2015-2016 academic year, a student [who
48 receives an NJ STARS II scholarship or a student who is already in

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

24 (cf: P.L.2017, c.360, s.3)

25

26 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

27

28

STATEMENT

29

30 Prior to the passage of P.L.2017, c.360, a recipient of an NJ
31 STARS or NJ STARS II scholarship was required to maintain status
32 as a full-time student (at least 12 credit hours) unless on a medical
33 leave or emergency leave or unless called to partial or full
34 mobilization for State or federal active duty as a member of the
35 National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the
36 United States. P.L.2017, c.360 allows a student to receive a
37 scholarship under NJ STARS and NJ STARS II while enrolled part-
38 time and taking no less than six credits, if the student documents a
39 need to take fewer credits due to a physical or mental health
40 condition or the student verifies the recent death of a parent or
41 spouse. This bill would clarify the original intent of P.L.2017,
42 c.360 by ensuring that a student who meets the criteria of that law
43 would be eligible for a scholarship under NJ STARS and NJ
44 STARS II upon initial enrollment on a part-time basis in a county
45 college or four-year institution of higher education. The law as
46 enacted was unclear on whether students could receive a
47 scholarship when they were enrolling for the first time at a county
48 college or four-year college or university on a part-time basis.

SENATE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2787

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 6 , 2019

The Senate Higher Education Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2787.

Prior to the passage of P.L.2017, c.360, a recipient of an NJ STARS or NJ STARS II scholarship was required to maintain status as a full-time student (at least 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. P.L.2017, c.360 allows a student to receive a scholarship under NJ STARS and NJ STARS II while enrolled part-time and taking no less than six credits, if the student documents a need to take fewer credits due to a physical or mental health condition or the student verifies the recent death of a parent or spouse.

This bill would clarify the original intent of P.L.2017, c.360 by ensuring that a student who meets the criteria of that law would be eligible for a scholarship under NJ STARS and NJ STARS II upon initial enrollment on a part-time basis in a county college or four-year institution of higher education. The law as enacted was unclear on whether students could receive a scholarship when they were enrolling for the first time at a county college or four-year college or university on a part-time basis.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 4115, which also was reported by the committee on this same date.

Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

08/9/2019

TRENTON - Today, Governor Phil Murphy signed the following bills into law:

A312 (Pinkin, Conaway, Giblin, Holley, Danielsen, Mukherji, Wimberly/Vitale, Rice) - Requires certain health care facilities to provide information concerning palliative care and hospice care services.

A841 (Land, Calabrese/Andrzejczak) - Provides for establishment of county college certificate programs to meet needs of certain regional employers.

A1700 (Dancer, Vainieri Huttie, Calabrese/Cruz-Perez, Cunningham) - Expands eligibility criteria for designating certain areas as being in need of redevelopment.

A2004 (Karabinchak, Mazzeo, Pinkin, Coughlin/Diegnan) - Requires municipality to pay certain nonresidential property tax appeal refunds in equal installments over period of three years.

A3937 (DeAngelo, Reynolds-Jackson, Verrelli/Turner) - Allows local government water system employees to reside in all municipalities served by water system.

A4115 (Benson, DeAngelo, Holley/Greenstein) - Clarifies that certain students are eligible for NJ STARS and NJ STARS II scholarship upon initial enrollment at institution of higher education on part-time basis.

A4223 (Johnson, Rooney/Weinberg, Lagana) - Requires State Treasurer to pay county prosecutor's expenses for overseeing certain law enforcement agencies.

A4938 (Tucker, Pinkin, Vainieri Huttie/Ruiz, Greenstein) - Requires DOH to establish "My Life, My Plan" program to support women of childbearing age in developing reproductive life plan.

A5021 (Quijano, Bramnick, Reynolds-Jackson, Pinkin, Downey/Vitale, Kean) - Requires Medicaid coverage for group prenatal care services under certain circumstances.

A5322 (Burzichelli, Milam, Houghtaling, Taliaferro/Sweeney, Oroho, Beach, Andrzejczak) - Establishes program for cultivation, handling, processing, transport, and sale of hemp; repeals New Jersey Industrial Hemp Pilot Program.

A5392 (Quijano, Murphy/Vitale, Scutari) - Establishes new liability standards in sexual abuse lawsuits filed against public entities and public employees.

A5595 (Milam, Houghtaling, Dancer, Wirths/Oroho, Pennacchio) - Expands eligibility for EDA small business loan program to specifically include certain farming operations and qualified dairy farmers.

S601 (Smith, Greenstein/Pinkin, McKeon) - Establishes "New Jersey Solar Panel Recycling Commission."

S781 (Sarlo, O'Scanlon/Giblin, DiMaso, Handlin) - Revises penalties for certain violations of law by public movers and warehousemen.

S984 (Vitale, Singleton/Conaway, Mukherji, Murphy) - Establishes certain requirements, including allowable fees, for provision of medical records to patients, legally authorized representatives, and authorized third parties.

S1109 (Ruiz/Munoz, Quijano) - Renames "Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment Act" as "Practitioner Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment Act"; permits physician assistants to sign and modify POLST forms; requires continuing education concerning end-of-life care.

S1739 (Oroho, Andrzejczak/Land, Space, Milam) - Renames county corrections officers as county correctional police officers.

S2807 (Cryan, Cruz-Perez/Pinkin, Moriarty, Zwicker) - Concerns service of food or refreshments on mortuary premises.

S2858 (Gopal, Diegnan/Houghtaling, Downey, Johnson) - Prohibits issuance of certain badges to NJT board members, PANYNJ commissioners, and local and State elected officials.

S3212 (Ruiz, Rice/Pintor Marin, Holley) - Permits municipalities to establish temporary supplemental zoning boards of adjustment to address application backlogs.

S3334 (Diegnan, Vitale/Conaway, Pinkin) - Exempts certain surgical technologists from general educational and training requirements.