

30:4C-101

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 2003 **CHAPTER:** 132

NJSA: 30:4C-101 (Statewide Tuition Waiver)

BILL NO: A2428 (Substituted for S1702)

SPONSOR(S): Previte and Edwards

DATE INTRODUCED: June 13, 2002

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Family, Women and Childrens Services; Appropriations

SENATE: Budget

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** May 15, 2003

SENATE: June 23, 2003

DATE OF APPROVAL: July 17, 2003

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (2nd reprint enacted)
(Amendments during passage denoted by superscript numbers)

A2428

SPONSORS STATEMENT: (Begins on page 3 of original bill) [Yes](#)

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** Yes [11-25-02 \(Family\)](#)
[2-3-03 \(Approp.\)](#)

SENATE: [Yes](#)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: [Yes](#)

S1702

SPONSORS STATEMENT: (Begins on page 3 of original bill) [Yes](#)

Bill and Sponsors Statement identical to A2428

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** No

SENATE: Yes [5-8-03 \(Health\)](#)
[6-17-03 \(Budget\)](#)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR’S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: [Yes](#)

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 292-6220 or <mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org>.

REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: Yes

“State to pick up tab for foster or homeless kids...” 7-18-2003 Star Ledger, p.23

“New law gives foster children money for college,” 7-18-2003 The Record, p.L2

“NJ to pay for college for youths in its care programs,” 7-18-2003 Philadelphia Inquirer, pB4.

Title 30.
Chapter 4C.
Article VIII. (New)
Statewide Tuition
Waiver Program.
§§1-5 -
C.30:4C-101
to 30:4C-105

P.L. 2003, CHAPTER 132, *approved July 17, 2003*
Assembly, No. 2428 (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT creating the "Statewide Tuition Waiver Program" for certain
2 students under the care or custody of the State and supplementing
3 P.L.1951, c.138 (C.30:4C-1 et seq.).
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
7

8 1. As used in this act:

9 "Tuition" means the charges imposed by a New Jersey public
10 institution of higher education or county vocational school providing
11 post-secondary vocational education, for enrollment at the institution
12 or school.
13

14 2. There is created in the Department of Human Services the
15 "Statewide Tuition Waiver Program." The purpose of the program is
16 to provide State-paid tuition to children who have been under the care
17 and custody of the Division of Youth and Family Services pursuant to
18 section 11 of P.L.1951, c.138 (C.30:4C-11), and who are interested
19 in pursuing a college or post-secondary vocational education at a
20 public institution of higher education or county vocational school in
21 this State.
22

23 3. a. A child shall be eligible to qualify for the program if the child
24 meets the following requirements ¹at the time of the initial application
25 to the Commissioner of Human Services for a tuition waiver pursuant
26 to subsection b. of this section¹:

27 (1) the child is ¹[18] 16¹ to 23 years of age;

28 (2) the child:

29 (a) ¹[was in a foster care placement supervised by the Division of
30 Youth and Family Services in the Department of Human Services that
31 was terminated once the child reached the age of 18; or

32 (b) is or has been residing in an independent living arrangement
33 operated or approved for payment by the division] has been in the

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Assembly AFW committee amendments adopted November 25, 2002.

² Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted February 3, 2003.

1 care and custody of the Division of Youth and Family Services in the
2 Department of Human Services for a period of nine months or more
3 following the child's sixteenth birthday;

4 (b) is or has been residing in an independent living arrangement, or
5 a transitional living program established pursuant to P.L.1999, c.224
6 (C.9:12A-2 et seq.), operated or approved for payment by the division;
7 or

8 (c) is or has been residing in a transitional living program located
9 in the State of New Jersey and approved for payment by the federal
10 government pursuant to the federal "Runaway and Homeless Youth
11 Act," Title III of Pub.L.93-415 (42 U.S.C.A. s.5701 et seq.)¹;

12 (3) the child has received a high school diploma or a certificate of
13 high school equivalency; and

14 (4) the child has been granted admission to a New Jersey public
15 institution of higher education or county vocational school.

16 b. A child who meets the eligibility requirements listed in this
17 section may apply to the Commissioner of Human Services for a
18 tuition waiver in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner.

19 c. Upon receipt of an application, the Commissioner of Human
20 Services shall review the application and if the child meets the program
21 eligibility requirements, the commissioner shall approve the application
22 and notify the appropriate New Jersey public institution of higher
23 education or county vocational school that the child qualifies for a
24 tuition waiver.

25 d. Eligibility for the program shall be limited to five years
26 ¹[following graduation from high school or the receipt of a certificate
27 of high school equivalency] from the date the child applied to the
28 Commissioner of Human Services for a tuition waiver pursuant to
29 subsection b. of this section¹.

30 e. Each child approved for the program shall be required to enroll
31 in a full-time degree, ¹diploma or certificate¹ program or course of
32 undergraduate study and ¹[make satisfactory progress toward the
33 completion of an academic degree] ²[remain in good academic
34 standing] retain satisfactory academic progress² during the time the
35 child qualifies for a tuition waiver¹.

36
37 4. ²[Upon receiving approval for a tuition waiver pursuant to
38 subsection c. of section 3 of this act, the child] The applicant² shall
39 complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid to determine
40 the level of need and eligibility for State and federal financial aid
41 programs. If the sum of the tuition waiver plus other federal, State
42 and institutional student financial assistance, except loans, exceeds the
43 total cost of the child's tuition, the tuition waiver shall be reduced by
44 the amount exceeding that cost.

45
46 5. Subject to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410

1 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), the Commissioner of Human Services, in
2 consultation with the ²[New Jersey Commission on Higher
3 Education] Higher Education Student Assistance Authority², shall
4 adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act.

5

6 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

7

8

9

10

11 Creates "Statewide Tuition Waiver Program" for certain students
12 under care and custody of DYFS.

ASSEMBLY, No. 2428

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 210th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 13, 2002

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman MARY T. PREVITE

District 6 (Camden)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Dancer and Assemblywoman Heck

SYNOPSIS

Creates "Statewide Tuition Waiver Program" for certain students under care and custody of DYFS.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/26/2002)

1 AN ACT creating the "Statewide Tuition Waiver Program" for certain
2 students under the care or custody of the State and supplementing
3 P.L.1951, c.138 (C.30:4C-1 et seq.).
4

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

7
8 1. As used in this act:

9 "Tuition" means the charges imposed by a New Jersey public
10 institution of higher education or county vocational school providing
11 post-secondary vocational education, for enrollment at the institution
12 or school.
13

14 2. There is created in the Department of Human Services the
15 "Statewide Tuition Waiver Program." The purpose of the program is
16 to provide State-paid tuition to children who have been under the care
17 and custody of the Division of Youth and Family Services pursuant to
18 section 11 of P.L.1951, c.138 (C.30:4C-11), and who are interested
19 in pursuing a college or post-secondary vocational education at a
20 public institution of higher education or county vocational school in
21 this State.
22

23 3. a. A child shall be eligible to qualify for the program if the child
24 meets the following requirements:

25 (1) the child is 18 to 23 years of age;

26 (2) the child:

27 (a) was in a foster care placement supervised by the Division of
28 Youth and Family Services in the Department of Human Services that
29 was terminated once the child reached the age of 18; or

30 (b) is or has been residing in an independent living arrangement
31 operated or approved for payment by the division;

32 (3) the child received a high school diploma or a certificate of high
33 school equivalency; and

34 (4) the child has been granted admission to a New Jersey public
35 institution of higher education or county vocational school.

36 b. A child who meets the eligibility requirements listed in this
37 section may apply to the Commissioner of Human Services for a
38 tuition waiver in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner.

39 c. Upon receipt of an application, the Commissioner of Human
40 Services shall review the application and if the child meets the program
41 eligibility requirements, the commissioner shall approve the application
42 and notify the appropriate New Jersey public institution of higher
43 education or county vocational school that the child qualifies for a
44 tuition waiver.

45 d. Eligibility for the program shall be limited to five years following
46 graduation from high school or the receipt of a certificate of high

1 school equivalency.

2 e. Each child approved for the program shall be required to enroll
3 in a full-time degree, program or course of undergraduate study and
4 make satisfactory progress toward the completion of an academic
5 degree.

6

7 4. Upon receiving approval for a tuition waiver pursuant to
8 subsection c. of section 3 of this act, the child shall complete the Free
9 Application for Federal Student Aid to determine the level of need and
10 eligibility for State and federal financial aid programs. If the sum of
11 the tuition waiver plus other federal, State and institutional student
12 financial assistance, except loans, exceeds the total cost of the child's
13 tuition, the tuition waiver shall be reduced by the amount exceeding
14 that cost.

15

16 5. Subject to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
17 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), the Commissioner of Human Services, in
18 consultation with the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education,
19 shall adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act.

20

21 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

22

23

24

STATEMENT

25

26 This bill establishes the "Statewide Tuition Waiver Program" in the
27 Department of Human Services. The purpose of the program is to
28 provide State-paid tuition to children who have been under the care
29 and custody of the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS),
30 and who are interested in pursuing college or vocational education at
31 a public institution of higher education or county vocational school in
32 this State.

33 A child is eligible to qualify for the program, if the child meets the
34 following requirements:

35 ! the child is 18 to 23 years of age;

36 ! the child: was in a DYFS supervised foster care placement that
37 was terminated once the child reached the age of 18; or is or
38 has been residing in an independent living arrangement
39 operated or approved for payment by DYFS;

40 ! the child received a high school diploma or a certificate of high
41 school equivalency; and

42 ! the child has been granted admission to a New Jersey public
43 institution of higher education or a county vocational school.

44 A child who meets the program's eligibility requirements shall apply
45 to the Commissioner of Human Services for a tuition waiver. Upon
46 receipt of the application, the commissioner shall review the

A2428 PREVITE

1 application and if the child meets the eligibility requirements, the
2 commissioner shall approve the application and notify the appropriate
3 public institution of higher education or county vocational school that
4 the child has qualified for a waiver.

5 Under the provisions of the bill, upon receiving approval for a
6 tuition waiver, the child shall complete the Free Application for
7 Federal Student Aid to determine the level of need and eligibility for
8 State and federal financial aid programs. If the sum of the tuition
9 waiver plus other federal, State and institutional student financial
10 assistance, except loans, exceeds the total cost of the child's tuition,
11 the tuition waiver shall be reduced by the amount exceeding that cost.
12 The child shall be required to enroll in a full-time degree, program or
13 course of undergraduate study and make satisfactory progress toward
14 the completion of an academic degree.

15 Finally, the bill directs the Commissioner of Human Services, in
16 consultation with the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education,
17 to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of the
18 bill.

ASSEMBLY FAMILY, WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2428

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 25, 2002

The Assembly Family, Women and Children's Services Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 2428.

As amended by the committee, this bill establishes the "Statewide Tuition Waiver Program" in the Department of Human Services. The purpose of the program is to provide State-paid tuition to children who have been under the care and custody of the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS), and who are interested in pursuing college or vocational education at a public institution of higher education or county vocational school in this State.

A child is eligible to qualify for the program, if the child meets the following requirements at the time of the initial application for a tuition waiver:

- ! the child is 16 to 23 years of age;
- ! the child: has been in the care and custody of DYFS for a period of nine months or more following the child's sixteenth birthday; is or has been residing in an independent living arrangement, or transitional living program established pursuant to N.J.S.A.9:12A-2 et seq., operated or approved for payment by DYFS; or is or has been residing in an transitional living program located in the State of New Jersey and approved for payment by the federal government pursuant to the federal "Runaway and Homeless Youth Act";
- ! the child has received a high school diploma or a certificate of high school equivalency; and
- ! the child has been granted admission to a New Jersey public institution of higher education or a county vocational school.

A child who meets the program's eligibility requirements shall apply to the Commissioner of Human Services for a tuition waiver. Upon receipt of the application, the commissioner shall review the application and if the child meets the eligibility requirements, the commissioner shall approve the application and notify the appropriate public institution of higher education or county vocational school that

the child has qualified for a waiver.

Under the provisions of the bill, upon receiving approval for a tuition waiver, the child shall complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid to determine the level of need and eligibility for State and federal financial aid programs. If the sum of the tuition waiver plus other federal, State and institutional student financial assistance, except loans, exceeds the total cost of the child's tuition, the tuition waiver shall be reduced by the amount exceeding that cost. The child shall be required to enroll in a full-time degree, diploma or certificate program or course of undergraduate study and remain in good academic standing during the time the child qualifies for the tuition waiver.

Finally, the bill directs the Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation with the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education, to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of the bill.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

- ! lower the age at which a child may become eligible for the tuition waiver program from 18 years of age to 16 years of age;
- ! clarify that in order to qualify for the program, the child shall meet the eligibility requirements at the time of the initial application for a tuition waiver;
- ! clarify that a child may be eligible for the program if the child: has been in the care or custody of DYFS for a period of nine months or more following the child's sixteenth birthday; or is or has been residing in an independent living arrangement or transitional living program operated or approved for payment by DYFS or the federal government;
- ! require that eligibility for the program be limited to five years from the date the child applied to the commissioner for a tuition waiver, instead of five years following graduation from high school or the receipt of a certificate of high school equivalency, as originally provided in the bill;
- ! clarify that a child enrolled in a diploma or certificate program (as well as a degree program) can be approved for the program; and
- ! require that each child approved for the program shall remain in good academic standing during the time the child qualifies for a tuition waiver.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 2428

with Assembly committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 3, 2003

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2428, with committee amendments.

Assembly Bill No. 2428 (1R), as amended, establishes the "Statewide Tuition Waiver Program" in the Department of Human Services. The purpose of the program is to provide State-paid tuition to children who have been under the care and custody of the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS), and who are interested in pursuing college or vocational education at a public institution of higher education or county vocational school in this State.

A child is eligible to qualify for the program, if the child meets the following requirements at the time of the initial application for a tuition waiver:

- ! the child is 16 to 23 years of age;
- ! the child: has been in the care and custody of DYFS for a period of nine months or more following the child's sixteenth birthday; is or has been residing in an independent living arrangement, or transitional living program for children in out-of-home-placement established pursuant to N.J.S.A.9:12A-2 et seq., operated or approved for payment by DYFS; or is or has been residing in an transitional living program located in the State of New Jersey and approved for payment by the federal government pursuant to the federal "Runaway and Homeless Youth Act";
- ! the child has received a high school diploma or a certificate of high school equivalency; and
- ! the child has been granted admission to a New Jersey public institution of higher education or a county vocational school.

A child who meets the program's eligibility requirements shall apply to the Commissioner of Human Services for a tuition waiver. Upon receipt of the application, the commissioner shall review the application and if the child meets the eligibility requirements, the commissioner shall approve the application and notify the appropriate public institution of higher education or county vocational school that

the child has qualified for a waiver.

Under the provisions of the bill, upon receiving approval for a tuition waiver, the child shall complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid to determine the level of need and eligibility for State and federal financial aid programs. If the sum of the tuition waiver plus other federal, State and institutional student financial assistance, except loans, exceeds the total cost of the child's tuition, the tuition waiver shall be reduced by the amount exceeding that cost. The child shall be required to enroll in a full-time degree, diploma or certificate program or course of undergraduate study and retain satisfactory academic progress during the time the child qualifies for the tuition waiver.

Finally, the bill directs the Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation with the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority, to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of the bill.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

- ! require the student to retain satisfactory academic progress;
- ! file appropriate forms in a timely fashion; and
- ! have the Commissioner of Human Services consult with the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority instead of the Commission on Higher Education.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that the direct cost to the State of the "Statewide Tuition Waiver Program" would be approximately \$62,500 annually. According to information received from the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS), the division currently maintains a \$40,000 fund, created with federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) dollars. The division reports that it awards scholarships to help children in transition to independent living arrangements and to pursue college or vocational education at a public or private institution of higher education or county vocational school. Although DYFS reports that 20-25 scholarships of approximately \$2,500 are awarded annually from the fund, this data includes an unknown number of children who do not use the scholarship to pursue college or vocational education. According to DYFS, a scholarship award from the fund is intended to supplement financial assistance awarded by the federal government, the State and the institutions in which the children are enrolled. Assuming that approximately 25 scholarships of \$2,500 will continue to be awarded annually, OLS estimates that the program will cost the State \$62,500 annually. In subsequent years, the cost to the State may increase or decrease relative to the change in the number of DYFS children who use the tuition waivers, the amount of other State, federal and institutional financial assistance they are awarded, and the post-secondary tuition costs at the institutions in which they are enrolled.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[Second Reprint]
ASSEMBLY, No. 2428

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 17, 2003

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2428 (2R).

This bill establishes the "Statewide Tuition Waiver Program" in the Department of Human Services. The purpose of the program is to provide State-paid tuition to children who have been under the care and custody of the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS), and who are interested in pursuing college or vocational education at a public institution of higher education or county vocational school in this State.

The bill extends eligibility for participation in the program to any child who, at the time of the initial application for a tuition waiver:

- C is 16 to 23 years of age;
- C has been in the care and custody of DYFS for a period of nine months or more following the child's 16th birthday; is or has been residing in an independent living arrangement, or transitional living program for children in out-of-home-placement, operated or approved for payment by DYFS; or is or has been residing in a transitional living program located in the State of New Jersey and approved for payment by the federal government pursuant to the federal "Runaway and Homeless Youth Act";
- C has received a high school diploma or a certificate of high school equivalency; and
- C has been granted admission to a New Jersey public institution of higher education or a county vocational school.

A child who meets the program's eligibility requirements is to apply to the Commissioner of Human Services for a tuition waiver. Upon receipt of the application, the commissioner is directed to review the application and, if the child meets the eligibility requirements, to approve the application and notify the appropriate public institution of higher education or county vocational school that the child has qualified for a waiver.

Under the provisions of the bill, upon receiving approval for a tuition waiver, the child is required to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid to determine the level of need and eligibility

for State and federal financial aid programs. If the sum of the tuition waiver plus other federal, State and institutional student financial assistance, except loans, exceeds the total cost of the child's tuition, the tuition waiver is to be reduced by the amount exceeding that cost. The child will be required to enroll in a full-time degree, diploma or certificate program or course of undergraduate study and retain satisfactory academic progress during the time that the child qualifies for the tuition waiver.

Finally, the bill directs the Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation with the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority, to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of the bill.

The provisions of this bill are identical to those of Senate Bill No. 1702 (1R), which the committee also reports this day.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that the direct cost to the State of the "Statewide Tuition Waiver Program" would be approximately \$62,500 annually. According to information received from the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS), the division currently maintains a \$40,000 fund, created with federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) dollars. The division reports that it awards scholarships to help children in transition to independent living arrangements and to pursue college or vocational education at a public or private institution of higher education or county vocational school. Although DYFS reports that 20-25 scholarships of approximately \$2,500 are awarded annually from the fund, this data includes an unknown number of children who do not use the scholarship to pursue college or vocational education. According to DYFS, a scholarship award from the fund is intended to supplement financial assistance awarded by the federal government, the State and the institutions in which the children are enrolled. Assuming that approximately 25 scholarships of \$2,500 will continue to be awarded annually, OLS estimates that the program will cost the State \$62,500 annually. In subsequent years, the cost to the State may increase or decrease relative to the change in the number of DYFS children who use the tuition waivers, the amount of other State, federal and institutional financial assistance they are awarded, and the post-secondary tuition costs at the institutions in which they are enrolled.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
[Second Reprint]
ASSEMBLY, No. 2428
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
210th LEGISLATURE

DATED: FEBRUARY 19, 2003

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Creates "Statewide Tuition Waiver Program" for certain students under care and custody of DYFS.

Type of Impact: An expenditure increase from the General Fund.

Agencies Affected: Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS).

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
State Cost	\$62,500	\$62,500	\$62,500

! The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that the direct cost to the State of the "Statewide Tuition Waiver Program" would be approximately \$62,500 annually. Currently the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) annually maintains a \$40,000 fund, created using federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) dollar. The division also provides \$10,000 - \$20,000 annually to supplement the fund. The division reports that it awards scholarships from the fund to children for several purposes, including pursuing college or vocational education at a public or independent institution of higher education or county vocational school.

BILL DESCRIPTION

Assembly Bill No. 2428 (2R) of 2002 establishes the "Statewide Tuition Waiver Program" in the Department of Human Services. The purpose of the program is to provide State-paid tuition to children who have been under the care and custody of the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS), and who are interested in pursuing college or vocational education at a public institution of higher education or county vocational school in this State.

The bill provides that a child is eligible to qualify for the program if at the time of the initial application for a tuition waiver the child: is 16 to 23 years of age; has been in the care and custody of DYFS for a period of nine months or more following the child's sixteenth birthday; is or has been residing in an independent living arrangement or transitional living program in the State of New Jersey; has received a high school diploma or a certificate of high school

equivalency; and has been granted admission to a public institution of higher education or a county vocational school in this State.

Under the bill, qualified children are required to make application for a tuition waiver to the Commissioner of Human Services. Upon approval, the commissioner is required to notify the appropriate public institution of higher education or county vocational school of the child's tuition waiver.

Under the provisions of the bill, the applicant is also required to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid to determine eligibility for State and federal financial aid programs. If the sum of the tuition waiver plus other federal, State and institutional student financial assistance, except loans, exceeds the total cost of the child's tuition, the tuition waiver will be reduced by the amount exceeding that cost.

Children receiving waivers will be required to enroll in a full-time degree, diploma or certificate program or course of undergraduate study and retain satisfactory academic progress during each year in which the child qualifies for a tuition waiver.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that the direct cost to the State of the "Statewide Tuition Waiver Program" would be approximately \$62,500 annually. According to information received from the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS), the division currently maintains a \$40,000 fund created with federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) dollars. The division also provides \$10,000 - \$20,000 annually to supplement the fund. The division reports that it awards scholarships to help children transition to independent living arrangements and to pursue college or vocational education at a public or independent institution of higher education or county vocational school. Although DYFS reports that 20-25 scholarships of approximately \$2,500 are awarded annually from the fund, this data includes an unknown number of children who do not use the scholarship to pursue college or vocational education. According to DYFS, a scholarship award from the fund is intended to supplement financial assistance awarded by the federal government, the State and the institutions in which the children are enrolled. Assuming that approximately 25 scholarships of \$2,500 will continue to be awarded annually, OLS estimates that the program will cost the State \$62,500 annually. In subsequent years the cost to the State may increase or decrease relative to the change in the number of DYFS children who use the tuition waivers, the amount of other State, federal and institutional financial assistance they are awarded, and the post-secondary tuition costs at the institutions in which they are enrolled.

Section: *Education Section*

Analyst: *Osomo Thomas*
Assistant Fiscal Analyst

Approved: *Alan R. Kooney*
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67.

SENATE, No. 1702

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 210th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 24, 2002

Sponsored by:

Senator DIANE ALLEN

District 7 (Burlington and Camden)

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

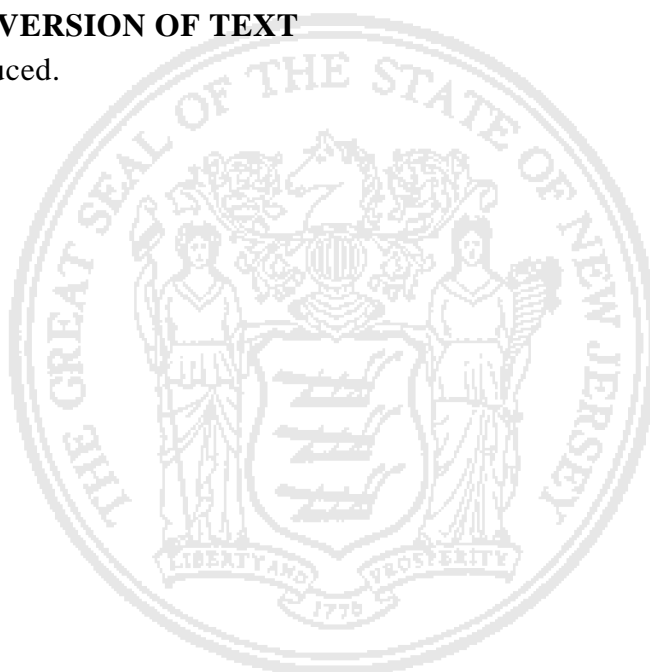
Senators Ciesla, B.Smith, Bennett and Bucco

SYNOPSIS

Creates "Statewide Tuition Waiver Program" for certain students under care and custody of DYFS.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/9/2003)

1 AN ACT creating the "Statewide Tuition Waiver Program" for certain
2 students under the care or custody of the State and supplementing
3 P.L.1951, c.138 (C.30:4C-1 et seq.).
4

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

7
8 1. As used in this act:

9 "Tuition" means the charges imposed by a New Jersey public
10 institution of higher education or county vocational school providing
11 post-secondary vocational education, for enrollment at the institution
12 or school.
13

14 2. There is created in the Department of Human Services the
15 "Statewide Tuition Waiver Program." The purpose of the program is
16 to provide State-paid tuition to children who have been under the care
17 and custody of the Division of Youth and Family Services pursuant to
18 section 11 of P.L.1951, c.138 (C.30:4C-11), and who are interested
19 in pursuing a college or post-secondary vocational education at a
20 public institution of higher education or county vocational school in
21 this State.
22

23 3. a. A child shall be eligible to qualify for the program if the child
24 meets the following requirements:

25 (1) the child is 18 to 23 years of age;

26 (2) the child:

27 (a) was in a foster care placement supervised by the Division of
28 Youth and Family Services in the Department of Human Services that
29 was terminated once the child reached the age of 18; or

30 (b) is or has been residing in an independent living arrangement
31 operated or approved for payment by the division;

32 (3) the child received a high school diploma or a certificate of high
33 school equivalency; and

34 (4) the child has been granted admission to a New Jersey public
35 institution of higher education or county vocational school.

36 b. A child who meets the eligibility requirements listed in this
37 section may apply to the Commissioner of Human Services for a
38 tuition waiver in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner.

39 c. Upon receipt of an application, the Commissioner of Human
40 Services shall review the application and if the child meets the program
41 eligibility requirements, the commissioner shall approve the application
42 and notify the appropriate New Jersey public institution of higher
43 education or county vocational school that the child qualifies for a
44 tuition waiver.

45 d. Eligibility for the program shall be limited to five years following
46 graduation from high school or the receipt of a certificate of high

1 school equivalency.

2 e. Each child approved for the program shall be required to enroll
3 in a full-time degree, program or course of undergraduate study and
4 make satisfactory progress toward the completion of an academic
5 degree.

6

7 4. Upon receiving approval for a tuition waiver pursuant to
8 subsection c. of section 3 of this act, the child shall complete the Free
9 Application for Federal Student Aid to determine the level of need and
10 eligibility for State and federal financial aid programs. If the sum of
11 the tuition waiver plus other federal, State and institutional student
12 financial assistance, except loans, exceeds the total cost of the child's
13 tuition, the tuition waiver shall be reduced by the amount exceeding
14 that cost.

15

16 5. Subject to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
17 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), the Commissioner of Human Services, in
18 consultation with the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education,
19 shall adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act.

20

21 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

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23

24

STATEMENT

25

26 This bill establishes the "Statewide Tuition Waiver Program" in the
27 Department of Human Services. The purpose of the program is to
28 provide State-paid tuition to children who have been under the care
29 and custody of the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS),
30 and who are interested in pursuing college or vocational education at
31 a public institution of higher education or county vocational school in
32 this State.

33 A child is eligible to qualify for the program, if the child meets the
34 following requirements:

35 ! the child is 18 to 23 years of age;

36 ! the child: was in a DYFS supervised foster care placement that
37 was terminated once the child reached the age of 18; or is or
38 has been residing in an independent living arrangement
39 operated or approved for payment by DYFS;

40 ! the child received a high school diploma or a certificate of high
41 school equivalency; and

42 ! the child has been granted admission to a New Jersey public
43 institution of higher education or a county vocational school.

44 A child who meets the program's eligibility requirements shall apply
45 to the Commissioner of Human Services for a tuition waiver. Upon
46 receipt of the application, the commissioner shall review the

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1 application and if the child meets the eligibility requirements, the
2 commissioner shall approve the application and notify the appropriate
3 public institution of higher education or county vocational school that
4 the child has qualified for a waiver.

5 Under the provisions of the bill, upon receiving approval for a
6 tuition waiver, the child shall complete the Free Application for
7 Federal Student Aid to determine the level of need and eligibility for
8 State and federal financial aid programs. If the sum of the tuition
9 waiver plus other federal, State and institutional student financial
10 assistance, except loans, exceeds the total cost of the child's tuition,
11 the tuition waiver shall be reduced by the amount exceeding that cost.
12 The child shall be required to enroll in a full-time degree, program or
13 course of undergraduate study and make satisfactory progress toward
14 the completion of an academic degree.

15 Finally, the bill directs the Commissioner of Human Services, in
16 consultation with the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education,
17 to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of the
18 bill.

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1702

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 8, 2003

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 1702.

As amended by the committee, this bill establishes the "Statewide Tuition Waiver Program" in the Department of Human Services. The purpose of the program is to provide State-paid tuition to children who have been under the care and custody of the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS), and who are interested in pursuing college or vocational education at a public institution of higher education or county vocational school in this State.

The bill provides that a child who meets the following requirements, at the time of the initial application for a tuition waiver, is eligible to qualify for the program:

- C is 16 to 23 years of age;
- C has been in the care and custody of DYFS for a period of nine months or more following the child's 16th birthday; is or has been residing in an independent living arrangement, or transitional living program for children in out-of-home-placement, operated or approved for payment by DYFS; or is or has been residing in a transitional living program located in the State of New Jersey and approved for payment by the federal government pursuant to the federal "Runaway and Homeless Youth Act";
- C has received a high school diploma or a certificate of high school equivalency; and
- C has been granted admission to a New Jersey public institution of higher education or a county vocational school.

A child who meets the program's eligibility requirements is to apply to the Commissioner of Human Services for a tuition waiver. Upon receipt of the application, the commissioner is directed to review the application and, if the child meets the eligibility requirements, to approve the application and notify the appropriate public institution of higher education or county vocational school that the child has

qualified for a waiver.

Under the provisions of the bill, upon receiving approval for a tuition waiver, the child is required to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid to determine the level of need and eligibility for State and federal financial aid programs. If the sum of the tuition waiver plus other federal, State and institutional student financial assistance, except loans, exceeds the total cost of the child's tuition, the tuition waiver is to be reduced by the amount exceeding that cost. The child will be required to enroll in a full-time degree, diploma or certificate program or course of undergraduate study and retain satisfactory academic progress during the time that the child qualifies for the tuition waiver.

Finally, the bill directs the Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation with the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority, to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of the bill.

The committee amended the bill to:

- lower the age at which a child may become eligible for the tuition waiver program from 18 years of age to 16 years of age;

- clarify that in order to qualify for the program, the child must meet the eligibility requirements at the time of the initial application for a tuition waiver;

- clarify that a child may be eligible for the program if the child: has been in the care or custody of DYFS for a period of nine months or more following the child's 16th birthday; or is or has been residing in an independent living arrangement or transitional living program operated or approved for payment by DYFS or the federal government;

- require that eligibility for the program be limited to five years from the date the child applied to the commissioner for a tuition waiver, instead of five years following graduation from high school or the receipt of a certificate of high school equivalency, as originally provided in the bill;

- clarify that a child enrolled in a diploma or certificate program (as well as a degree program) can be approved for the program;

- require that each child approved for the program retain satisfactory academic progress during the time the child qualifies for a tuition waiver; and

- require the Commissioner of Human Services to consult with the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority, rather than the Commission on Higher Education, for the purpose of adopting rules and regulations to implement the program.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 2428 (2R) (Previte), which is pending in the General Assembly.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 1702

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 17, 2003

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1702 (1R).

This bill establishes the "Statewide Tuition Waiver Program" in the Department of Human Services. The purpose of the program is to provide State-paid tuition to children who have been under the care and custody of the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS), and who are interested in pursuing college or vocational education at a public institution of higher education or county vocational school in this State.

The bill extends eligibility for participation in the program to any child who, at the time of the initial application for a tuition waiver:

- C is 16 to 23 years of age;
- C has been in the care and custody of DYFS for a period of nine months or more following the child's 16th birthday; is or has been residing in an independent living arrangement, or transitional living program for children in out-of-home-placement, operated or approved for payment by DYFS; or is or has been residing in a transitional living program located in the State of New Jersey and approved for payment by the federal government pursuant to the federal "Runaway and Homeless Youth Act";
- C has received a high school diploma or a certificate of high school equivalency; and
- C has been granted admission to a New Jersey public institution of higher education or a county vocational school.

A child who meets the program's eligibility requirements is to apply to the Commissioner of Human Services for a tuition waiver. Upon receipt of the application, the commissioner is directed to review the application and, if the child meets the eligibility requirements, to approve the application and notify the appropriate public institution of higher education or county vocational school that the child has qualified for a waiver.

Under the provisions of the bill, upon receiving approval for a tuition waiver, the child is required to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid to determine the level of need and eligibility

for State and federal financial aid programs. If the sum of the tuition waiver plus other federal, State and institutional student financial assistance, except loans, exceeds the total cost of the child's tuition, the tuition waiver is to be reduced by the amount exceeding that cost. The child will be required to enroll in a full-time degree, diploma or certificate program or course of undergraduate study and retain satisfactory academic progress during the time that the child qualifies for the tuition waiver.

Finally, the bill directs the Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation with the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority, to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of the bill.

The provisions of this bill are identical to those of Assembly Bill No. 2428 (2R), which the committee also reports this day.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that the direct cost to the State of the "Statewide Tuition Waiver Program" would be approximately \$62,500 annually. According to information received from the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS), the division currently maintains a \$40,000 fund, created with federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) dollars. The division reports that it awards scholarships to help children in transition to independent living arrangements and to pursue college or vocational education at a public or private institution of higher education or county vocational school. Although DYFS reports that 20-25 scholarships of approximately \$2,500 are awarded annually from the fund, this data includes an unknown number of children who do not use the scholarship to pursue college or vocational education. According to DYFS, a scholarship award from the fund is intended to supplement financial assistance awarded by the federal government, the State and the institutions in which the children are enrolled. Assuming that approximately 25 scholarships of \$2,500 will continue to be awarded annually, OLS estimates that the program will cost the State \$62,500 annually. In subsequent years, the cost to the State may increase or decrease relative to the change in the number of DYFS children who use the tuition waivers, the amount of other State, federal and institutional financial assistance they are awarded, and the post-secondary tuition costs at the institutions in which they are enrolled.

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Press Releases

PO BOX 004
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Contact: Micah Rasmussen
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RELEASE: July 17, 2003

[Previous Screen](#)

McGreevey Signs Statewide Tuition Waiver Program Into Law

Targets Children Under DYFS Care

(NEWARK)-Governor James E. McGreevey further advanced his commitment to children under the care and supervision of the Division of Youth and Family Services today as he signed The Statewide Tuition Waiver Program, A2428, into law. The bill is one of 14 initiatives the Governor announced on May 19th as part of the DYFS transformation. It provides state paid tuition for foster children and homeless youth interested in pursuing a college or vocational education.

“Our aim is to give children who have been abandoned by their families the opportunity to reach their fullest potential by attaining a high quality education that prepares them for adulthood,” said McGreevey. “Education is one of society’s great prevention strategies.”

The Governor also announced that New Jersey has been awarded a grant of \$800,957 from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, pursuant to the John Chafee Foster Care Independence Act to support higher education assistance for foster children. The grant will cover costs associated with the waiver program.

The new law authorizes the Department of Human Services to provide tuition to certain homeless youth and children who have been under the care of DYFS, and are seeking a college or county vocational education upon graduating high school or receiving a certificate of high school equivalency. Students must enroll full-time and maintain a satisfactory academic performance to qualify.

The new law includes both former foster children and homeless youth who reside in state-funded Homeless Youth programs, making it the most far-reaching higher education and child welfare initiative of its kind in the nation.

“We need to invest in prevention and provide long-term solutions that put at-risk teens on a clear path for success,” said McGreevey. “Without a program like this, options can be few and far between for children who have endured broken-homes.”

The bill provides that a child is eligible to qualify for the program if at the time of the initial application for a tuition waiver the child: is 16 to 23 years of age; has been in the care and custody of DYFS for a period of nine months or more following the child's sixteenth birthday; is or has been residing in an independent living arrangement or transitional living program in the State of New Jersey and has been granted admission to a public institution of higher education or a county vocational school in the State.

"Children under State care have often endured more than their fair share of hardships," said Senate Health and Human Services Committee Co-Chair Joseph F. Vitale (D-Middlesex). "If these children demonstrate the level of commitment and discipline required for a higher education program, then we should afford them the chance to pursue their dreams."

"Children who are placed under DYFS care or custody seldom have the family support system in place to attain a college degree," said Mary T. Previte (D-Camden), chairwoman of the Assembly Family, Women and Children's Services Committee. "This puts the dream of college within their reach."

"Youth should be provided with every tool necessary to reach their goals and attain a good education," said Assemblyman Willis Edwards (D-Essex). "A college education can make a substantial difference in a young person's life, including irreplaceable intellectual and personal growth."

The tuition waiver program underlines the Governor's commitment to reform DYFS in a comprehensive manner, including significant investment in prevention services. Today's initiative marks an accomplishment in the 14 point plan the Governor announced on May 19th as the first phase in the transformation of DYFS. The program comes on the back of far reaching changes at DYFS.

Since establishing a Governor's Cabinet for Children in May and announcing the settlement of the Children's Rights litigation late last month, the Administration has moved forward aggressively on a number of fronts. Under the terms of the settlement, a team of national child welfare experts, backed by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, is already at work with the Department of Human Services to develop and implement the transformation of DYFS. Among highlights of the reform process within the last 30 days:

- ✓ Providing \$30 million in new state money to bolster DYFS.
- ✓ Hiring the new DYFS director, Ed Cotton, who has successfully overseen child welfare reforms in both Illinois and Nevada.
- ✓ Removing the Institutional Abuse Unit out of DYFS.
- ✓ Passing the Child Advocate Bill
- ✓ Requiring criminal background checks for employees who work with DYFS children in private facilities.

"The benefits clearly outweigh the costs," said McGreevey. "At a very minimal cost to the State, we are helping children that could have easily headed down the wrong path, make their way to a very bright and shining future."

Photos and audio and video clips from Governor McGreevey's press conferences are available on the Governor's web page at <http://www.state.nj.us/governor/>. Links are located in the Governor's Newsroom section of the page.