

18A:71B-85

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 2007 **CHAPTER:** 214

NJSA: 18A:71B-85 (Provides a military service exemption to the requirement of continuous enrollment under the NJ STARS and NJ STARS II Programs)

BILL NO: A3253 (Substituted for S2956)

SPONSOR(S) Connors and Others

DATE INTRODUCED: June 1, 2006

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Military and Veteran’s Affairs

SENATE: Education

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: No

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** March 8, 2007

SENATE: December 10, 2007

DATE OF APPROVAL: December 20, 2007

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

[FINAL TEXT OF BILL](#) (Original version of bill enacted)

A3253

[SPONSOR’S STATEMENT:](#) (Begins on page 5 of original bill) [Yes](#)

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: [ASSEMBLY:](#) [Yes](#)

[SENATE:](#) [Yes](#)

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, ***may possibly*** be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE: No

S2956

[SPONSOR’S STATEMENT:](#) (Begins on page 5 of original bill) [Yes](#)

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** No

[SENATE:](#) [Yes](#)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR’S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: No

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: No

RWH 5/13/08

P.L. 2007, CHAPTER 214, *approved December 20, 2007*
Assembly, No. 3253

1 AN ACT concerning the NJ STARS and NJ STARS II Programs and
2 amending P.L.2004, c.59 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 5 of P.L.2004, c.59 (C.18A:71B-85) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 5. a. A scholarship under the NJ STARS Program shall cover the
10 full cost of tuition and fees, subject to the prior application of other
11 grants and scholarships against those costs as provided under
12 paragraph (2) of subsection c. of this section, for up to 15 credit
13 hours in any semester, for an eligible student enrolled in a full-time
14 course of study at the New Jersey county college serving the
15 student's county of residence. An otherwise eligible student who
16 demonstrates to the authority, in accordance with such criteria and
17 by means of such documentation as the authority shall establish by
18 regulation, that the county college serving the student's county of
19 residence does not offer the curriculum that the student chooses to
20 study shall be eligible for such scholarship at another New Jersey
21 county college offering that curriculum. The amount of any
22 scholarship allowed hereunder to a student at a county college
23 serving a county other than the student's county of residence shall
24 be computed as though the student were a resident of the county
25 served by that college, and the college shall likewise compute the
26 amount of any additional payment, required with respect to the
27 enrollment of that student for credit hours of study during a
28 semester in which the scholarship is awarded that are not covered
29 by that scholarship, as though the student were a resident of the
30 county.

31 b. A student shall be eligible for a scholarship under the NJ
32 STARS Program for up to five semesters. The scholarship shall be
33 payable for the first year of enrollment in a county college to a
34 student who graduated in the top 20% of the student's high school
35 graduating class, provided that in the case of students graduating
36 from high schools that do not calculate the class rank of their
37 students, the student's ranking shall be determined by the high
38 school in consultation with the authority. During a student's
39 enrollment in a county college after the first year of enrollment, the
40 scholarship shall be payable to that student if the student attains a
41 grade point average of at least 3.0 by the start of the student's
42 second year of county college enrollment. A student who attains a
43 grade point average of less than 3.0 at the start of the second
44 semester of the student's first year of county college enrollment

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 shall participate in an enrichment program designed by the county
2 college during the second semester of the student's first year of
3 enrollment.

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

6 (1) be a State resident pursuant to guidelines established by the
7 authority;

8 (2) have applied for all other available forms of State and
9 federal need-based grants and merit scholarships, exclusive of
10 loans, the full amount of which grants and scholarships shall be
11 applied to tuition and fee charges to reduce the amount of any
12 scholarship that the student shall receive under the provisions of
13 this act;

14 (3) be enrolled in a full-time course of study at a New Jersey
15 county college;

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

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

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

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

40 (cf: P.L.2005, c.168)

41

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

44 4. a. For an eligible student enrolled in a full-time course of
45 study at a New Jersey four-year public institution of higher
46 education, a scholarship under the NJ STARS II Program shall be
47 paid to the institution in the amount of \$2,000 for each semester of
48 enrollment commencing in the 2006-2007 academic year. For each

1 academic year thereafter, the amount of the scholarship shall be
2 increased by one-half of the average percentage increase over the
3 prior academic year in undergraduate tuition and fees for all four-
4 year public institutions of higher education and shall be paid to the
5 institution for each semester of enrollment in that academic year;
6 except that the amount of the scholarship shall not exceed \$2,500
7 per semester. The scholarship amount awarded shall be in addition
8 to any other State and federal need-based grants and merit
9 scholarships to which the student is entitled. The four-year public
10 institution of higher education shall waive or provide an
11 institutional scholarship for any tuition and fee amount for the
12 student, for up to 18 credits, that exceeds the sum of the NJ STARS
13 II scholarship and any other State and federal grants and
14 scholarships to which the student is entitled. The institution shall
15 not be required to waive or provide an institutional scholarship for
16 tuition and fees for credits in excess of 18 credit hours in any single
17 semester.

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

22 c. A student shall be eligible to receive a scholarship under the
23 NJ STARS II Program for the student's third academic year of study
24 if the student: attained an associate's degree from a New Jersey
25 county college; received a scholarship under the "New Jersey
26 Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS)
27 Program Act," P.L.2004, c.59 (C.18A:71B-81 et seq.), or was
28 eligible for but did not receive a scholarship under NJ STARS
29 because the student's tuition and fees were fully covered by other
30 State or federal need-based grants or merit scholarships, for each
31 semester of study in the county college; attains a grade point
32 average of at least 3.0 for the second academic year of study in the
33 county college; enrolls in a baccalaureate degree program at a New
34 Jersey four-year public institution of higher education for the third
35 academic year of study in the academic year immediately following
36 the student's attainment of an associate's degree; and meets the
37 criteria set forth in subsection e. of this section. A grade for credits
38 earned during a summer semester shall for the purposes of this
39 subsection be included in the calculation of the grade point average
40 for the preceding academic year.

41 d. A student shall be eligible to receive a scholarship under the
42 NJ STARS II Program for the student's fourth academic year of
43 study if the student: received a scholarship under the NJ STARS II
44 Program for the student's third academic year of study pursuant to
45 subsection c. of this section; based on the student's performance
46 during the third academic year of study, attained a grade point
47 average of at least 3.0; and meets the criteria set forth in subsection
48 e. of this section. A grade for credits earned during a summer

1 semester shall for the purposes of this subsection be included in the
2 calculation of the grade point average for the preceding academic
3 year.

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

6 (1) be a State resident pursuant to guidelines established by the
7 authority;

8 (2) have applied for all other available forms of State and
9 federal need-based grants and merit scholarships, exclusive of
10 loans, the full amount of which grants and scholarships shall be
11 applied to tuition and fee charges;

12 (3) be enrolled in a full-time course of study at a four-year
13 public institution of higher education; and

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

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

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

36 (cf: P.L.2005, c.359, s.4)

37

38 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

39

40

41

STATEMENT

42

43 This bill provides a military service exemption to the
44 requirement of continuous enrollment under the NJ STARS and NJ
45 STARS II Programs. Under current law, the NJ STARS and NJ
46 STARS II Programs require a participating student to maintain
47 continuous enrollment in a full-time course of study throughout the
48 student's participation in the program. However, the NJ STARS

1 and NJ STARS II laws provide that a student on leave due to a
2 medical or family emergency may be granted an exception to the
3 requirement of continuous enrollment, provided that the leave is
4 approved by the institution at which the student is enrolled. This
5 bill would extend the same exception to a student who has taken
6 leave to fulfill a military service obligation.

7

8

9

10

11 _____
12 Provides a military service exemption to the requirement of
13 continuous enrollment under the NJ STARS and NJ STARS II
Programs.

ASSEMBLY, No. 3253

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

212th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 1, 2006

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JACK CONNERS

District 7 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblyman ALBIO SIRES

District 33 (Hudson)

Assemblyman PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

Assemblyman LARRY CHATZIDAKIS

District 8 (Burlington)

Co-Sponsored by:

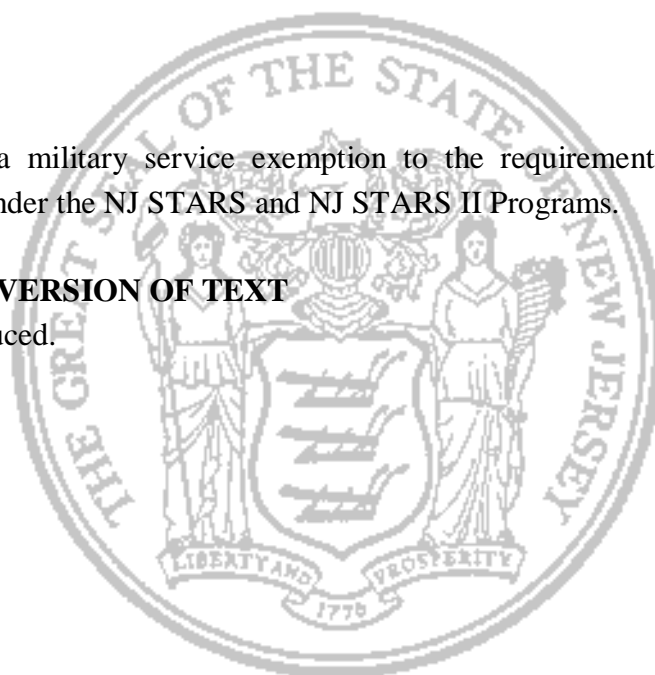
Assemblyman Hackett, Assemblywomen Cruz-Perez, Voss, Assemblymen Wolfe, Gregg, Assemblywoman Greenstein, Assemblyman Moriarty, Assemblywoman McHose, Assemblymen Gordon, Conaway, Rumpf, Connors, Senators Adler, Turner, Cunningham, Madden and Allen

SYNOPSIS

Provides a military service exemption to the requirement of continuous enrollment under the NJ STARS and NJ STARS II Programs.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/11/2007)

A3253 CONNERS, SIRES

2

1 AN ACT concerning the NJ STARS and NJ STARS II Programs and
2 amending P.L.2004, c.59 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 5 of P.L.2004, c.59 (C.18A:71B-85) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 5. a. A scholarship under the NJ STARS Program shall cover the
10 full cost of tuition and fees, subject to the prior application of other
11 grants and scholarships against those costs as provided under
12 paragraph (2) of subsection c. of this section, for up to 15 credit
13 hours in any semester, for an eligible student enrolled in a full-time
14 course of study at the New Jersey county college serving the
15 student's county of residence. An otherwise eligible student who
16 demonstrates to the authority, in accordance with such criteria and
17 by means of such documentation as the authority shall establish by
18 regulation, that the county college serving the student's county of
19 residence does not offer the curriculum that the student chooses to
20 study shall be eligible for such scholarship at another New Jersey
21 county college offering that curriculum. The amount of any
22 scholarship allowed hereunder to a student at a county college
23 serving a county other than the student's county of residence shall
24 be computed as though the student were a resident of the county
25 served by that college, and the college shall likewise compute the
26 amount of any additional payment, required with respect to the
27 enrollment of that student for credit hours of study during a
28 semester in which the scholarship is awarded that are not covered
29 by that scholarship, as though the student were a resident of the
30 county.

31 b. A student shall be eligible for a scholarship under the NJ
32 STARS Program for up to five semesters. The scholarship shall be
33 payable for the first year of enrollment in a county college to a
34 student who graduated in the top 20% of the student's high school
35 graduating class, provided that in the case of students graduating
36 from high schools that do not calculate the class rank of their
37 students, the student's ranking shall be determined by the high
38 school in consultation with the authority. During a student's
39 enrollment in a county college after the first year of enrollment, the
40 scholarship shall be payable to that student if the student attains a
41 grade point average of at least 3.0 by the start of the student's
42 second year of county college enrollment. A student who attains a
43 grade point average of less than 3.0 at the start of the second
44 semester of the student's first year of county college enrollment
45 shall participate in an enrichment program designed by the county

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Matter underlined thus is new matter.

A3253 CONNERS, SIRES

1 college during the second semester of the student's first year of
2 enrollment.

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

5 (1) be a State resident pursuant to guidelines established by the
6 authority;

7 (2) have applied for all other available forms of State and
8 federal need-based grants and merit scholarships, exclusive of
9 loans, the full amount of which grants and scholarships shall be
10 applied to tuition and fee charges to reduce the amount of any
11 scholarship that the student shall receive under the provisions of
12 this act;

13 (3) be enrolled in a full-time course of study at a New Jersey
14 county college;

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

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

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

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

39 (cf: P.L.2005, c.168)

40

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

43 4. a. For an eligible student enrolled in a full-time course of
44 study at a New Jersey four-year public institution of higher
45 education, a scholarship under the NJ STARS II Program shall be
46 paid to the institution in the amount of \$2,000 for each semester of
47 enrollment commencing in the 2006-2007 academic year. For each
48 academic year thereafter, the amount of the scholarship shall be

A3253 CONNERS, SIRES

1 increased by one-half of the average percentage increase over the
2 prior academic year in undergraduate tuition and fees for all four-
3 year public institutions of higher education and shall be paid to the
4 institution for each semester of enrollment in that academic year;
5 except that the amount of the scholarship shall not exceed \$2,500
6 per semester. The scholarship amount awarded shall be in addition
7 to any other State and federal need-based grants and merit
8 scholarships to which the student is entitled. The four-year public
9 institution of higher education shall waive or provide an
10 institutional scholarship for any tuition and fee amount for the
11 student, for up to 18 credits, that exceeds the sum of the NJ STARS
12 II scholarship and any other State and federal grants and
13 scholarships to which the student is entitled. The institution shall
14 not be required to waive or provide an institutional scholarship for
15 tuition and fees for credits in excess of 18 credit hours in any single
16 semester.

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

21 c. A student shall be eligible to receive a scholarship under the
22 NJ STARS II Program for the student's third academic year of study
23 if the student: attained an associate's degree from a New Jersey
24 county college; received a scholarship under the "New Jersey
25 Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS)
26 Program Act," P.L.2004, c.59 (C.18A:71B-81 et seq.), or was
27 eligible for but did not receive a scholarship under NJ STARS
28 because the student's tuition and fees were fully covered by other
29 State or federal need-based grants or merit scholarships, for each
30 semester of study in the county college; attains a grade point
31 average of at least 3.0 for the second academic year of study in the
32 county college; enrolls in a baccalaureate degree program at a New
33 Jersey four-year public institution of higher education for the third
34 academic year of study in the academic year immediately following
35 the student's attainment of an associate's degree; and meets the
36 criteria set forth in subsection e. of this section. A grade for credits
37 earned during a summer semester shall for the purposes of this
38 subsection be included in the calculation of the grade point average
39 for the preceding academic year.

40 d. A student shall be eligible to receive a scholarship under the
41 NJ STARS II Program for the student's fourth academic year of
42 study if the student: received a scholarship under the NJ STARS II
43 Program for the student's third academic year of study pursuant to
44 subsection c. of this section; based on the student's performance
45 during the third academic year of study, attained a grade point
46 average of at least 3.0; and meets the criteria set forth in subsection
47 e. of this section. A grade for credits earned during a summer
48 semester shall for the purposes of this subsection be included in the

1 calculation of the grade point average for the preceding academic
2 year.

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

5 (1) be a State resident pursuant to guidelines established by the
6 authority;

7 (2) have applied for all other available forms of State and
8 federal need-based grants and merit scholarships, exclusive of
9 loans, the full amount of which grants and scholarships shall be
10 applied to tuition and fee charges;

11 (3) be enrolled in a full-time course of study at a four-year
12 public institution of higher education; and

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

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

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

35 (cf: P.L.2005, c.359, s.4)

36

37 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

38

39

40

STATEMENT

41

42 This bill provides a military service exemption to the
43 requirement of continuous enrollment under the NJ STARS and NJ
44 STARS II Programs. Under current law, the NJ STARS and NJ
45 STARS II Programs require a participating student to maintain
46 continuous enrollment in a full-time course of study throughout the
47 student's participation in the program. However, the NJ STARS
48 and NJ STARS II laws provide that a student on leave due to a

A3253 CONNERS, SIRES

6

1 medical or family emergency may be granted an exception to the
2 requirement of continuous enrollment, provided that the leave is
3 approved by the institution at which the student is enrolled. This
4 bill would extend the same exception to a student who has taken
5 leave to fulfill a military service obligation.

ASSEMBLY MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3253

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 1, 2006

The Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee reports favorably Assembly, No. 3253.

This bill provides a military service exception to the requirement of continuous enrollment under the NJ STARS and NJ STARS II Programs. Under current law, the NJ STARS and NJ STARS II Programs require a participating student to maintain continuous enrollment in a full-time course of study throughout the student's participation in the program. However, the NJ STARS and NJ STARS II laws provide that a student on leave due to a medical or family emergency may be granted an exception to the requirement of continuous enrollment, provided that the leave is approved by the institution at which the student is enrolled. This bill would extend the same exception to a student who has taken leave to fulfill a military service obligation.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3253

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 29, 2007

The Senate Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 3253.

This bill provides a military service exception to the requirement of continuous enrollment under the NJ STARS and NJ STARS II Programs. Under current law, the NJ STARS and NJ STARS II Programs require a participating student to maintain continuous enrollment in a full-time course of study throughout the student's participation in the program. However, the NJ STARS and NJ STARS II laws provide that a student on leave due to a medical or family emergency may be granted an exception to the requirement of continuous enrollment, provided that the leave is approved by the institution at which the student is enrolled. This bill would extend the same exception to a student who has taken leave to fulfill a military service obligation.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 2956.

SENATE, No. 2956

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 212th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 29, 2007

Sponsored by:

Senator JOHN H. ADLER

District 6 (Camden)

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Cunningham, Madden and Allen

SYNOPSIS

Provides a military service exemption to the requirement of continuous enrollment under the NJ STARS and NJ STARS II Programs.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/11/2007)

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

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
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11 grants and scholarships against those costs as provided under
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14 course of study at the New Jersey county college serving the
15 student's county of residence. An otherwise eligible student who
16 demonstrates to the authority, in accordance with such criteria and
17 by means of such documentation as the authority shall establish by
18 regulation, that the county college serving the student's county of
19 residence does not offer the curriculum that the student chooses to
20 study shall be eligible for such scholarship at another New Jersey
21 county college offering that curriculum. The amount of any
22 scholarship allowed hereunder to a student at a county college
23 serving a county other than the student's county of residence shall
24 be computed as though the student were a resident of the county
25 served by that college, and the college shall likewise compute the
26 amount of any additional payment, required with respect to the
27 enrollment of that student for credit hours of study during a
28 semester in which the scholarship is awarded that are not covered
29 by that scholarship, as though the student were a resident of the
30 county.

31 b. A student shall be eligible for a scholarship under the NJ
32 STARS Program for up to five semesters. The scholarship shall be
33 payable for the first year of enrollment in a county college to a
34 student who graduated in the top 20% of the student's high school
35 graduating class, provided that in the case of students graduating
36 from high schools that do not calculate the class rank of their
37 students, the student's ranking shall be determined by the high
38 school in consultation with the authority. During a student's
39 enrollment in a county college after the first year of enrollment, the
40 scholarship shall be payable to that student if the student attains a
41 grade point average of at least 3.0 by the start of the student's
42 second year of county college enrollment. A student who attains a
43 grade point average of less than 3.0 at the start of the second
44 semester of the student's first year of county college enrollment
45 shall participate in an enrichment program designed by the county

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2 enrollment.

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4 Program a student shall:

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6 authority;

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8 need-based grants and merit scholarships, exclusive of loans, the
9 full amount of which grants and scholarships shall be applied to
10 tuition and fee charges to reduce the amount of any scholarship that
11 the student shall receive under the provisions of this act;

12 (3) be enrolled in a full-time course of study at a New Jersey
13 county college;

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

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

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

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

38 (cf: P.L.2005, c.168)

39

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

42 4. a. For an eligible student enrolled in a full-time course of
43 study at a New Jersey four-year public institution of higher
44 education, a scholarship under the NJ STARS II Program shall be
45 paid to the institution in the amount of \$2,000 for each semester of
46 enrollment commencing in the 2006-2007 academic year. For each
47 academic year thereafter, the amount of the scholarship shall be
48 increased by one-half of the average percentage increase over the

1 prior academic year in undergraduate tuition and fees for all four-
2 year public institutions of higher education and shall be paid to the
3 institution for each semester of enrollment in that academic year;
4 except that the amount of the scholarship shall not exceed \$2,500
5 per semester. The scholarship amount awarded shall be in addition
6 to any other State and federal need-based grants and merit
7 scholarships to which the student is entitled. The four-year public
8 institution of higher education shall waive or provide an
9 institutional scholarship for any tuition and fee amount for the
10 student, for up to 18 credits, that exceeds the sum of the NJ STARS
11 II scholarship and any other State and federal grants and
12 scholarships to which the student is entitled. The institution shall
13 not be required to waive or provide an institutional scholarship for
14 tuition and fees for credits in excess of 18 credit hours in any single
15 semester.

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

20 c. A student shall be eligible to receive a scholarship under the
21 NJ STARS II Program for the student's third academic year of study
22 if the student: attained an associate's degree from a New Jersey
23 county college; received a scholarship under the "New Jersey
24 Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS)
25 Program Act," P.L.2004, c.59 (C.18A:71B-81 et seq.), or was
26 eligible for but did not receive a scholarship under NJ STARS
27 because the student's tuition and fees were fully covered by other
28 State or federal need-based grants or merit scholarships, for each
29 semester of study in the county college; attains a grade point
30 average of at least 3.0 for the second academic year of study in the
31 county college; enrolls in a baccalaureate degree program at a New
32 Jersey four-year public institution of higher education for the third
33 academic year of study in the academic year immediately following
34 the student's attainment of an associate's degree; and meets the
35 criteria set forth in subsection e. of this section. A grade for credits
36 earned during a summer semester shall for the purposes of this
37 subsection be included in the calculation of the grade point average
38 for the preceding academic year.

39 d. A student shall be eligible to receive a scholarship under the
40 NJ STARS II Program for the student's fourth academic year of
41 study if the student: received a scholarship under the NJ STARS II
42 Program for the student's third academic year of study pursuant to
43 subsection c. of this section; based on the student's performance
44 during the third academic year of study, attained a grade point
45 average of at least 3.0; and meets the criteria set forth in subsection
46 e. of this section. A grade for credits earned during a summer
47 semester shall for the purposes of this subsection be included in the

1 calculation of the grade point average for the preceding academic
2 year.

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

5 (1) be a State resident pursuant to guidelines established by the
6 authority;

7 (2) have applied for all other available forms of State and federal
8 need-based grants and merit scholarships, exclusive of loans, the
9 full amount of which grants and scholarships shall be applied to
10 tuition and fee charges;

11 (3) be enrolled in a full-time course of study at a four-year public
12 institution of higher education; and

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

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

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

35 (cf: P.L.2005, c.359, s.4)

36

37 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

41

42 This bill provides a military service exemption to the
43 requirement of continuous enrollment under the NJ STARS and NJ
44 STARS II Programs. Under current law, the NJ STARS and NJ
45 STARS II Programs require a participating student to maintain
46 continuous enrollment in a full-time course of study throughout the
47 student's participation in the program. However, the NJ STARS
48 and NJ STARS II laws provide that a student on leave due to a

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1 medical or family emergency may be granted an exception to the
2 requirement of continuous enrollment, provided that the leave is
3 approved by the institution at which the student is enrolled. This
4 bill would extend the same exception to a student who has taken
5 leave to fulfill a military service obligation.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2956

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 29, 2007

The Senate Education Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2956.

This bill provides a military service exception to the requirement of continuous enrollment under the NJ STARS and NJ STARS II Programs. Under current law, the NJ STARS and NJ STARS II Programs require a participating student to maintain continuous enrollment in a full-time course of study throughout the student's participation in the program. However, the NJ STARS and NJ STARS II laws provide that a student on leave due to a medical or family emergency may be granted an exception to the requirement of continuous enrollment, provided that the leave is approved by the institution at which the student is enrolled. This bill would extend the same exception to a student who has taken leave to fulfill a military service obligation.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 3253.