

18A:7C-S.1

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST  
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(Graduation requirements)

NJSA: 18A:7C-5.1

LAWS OF: 1996 CHAPTER: 145

BILL NO: A1742

SPONSOR(S): Garcia

DATE INTRODUCED: March 25, 1996

COMMITTEE: ASSEMBLY: Education

SENATE: ---

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes Amendments during passage denoted  
First reprint enacted by superscript numbers

DATE OF PASSAGE: ASSEMBLY: June 1, 1996

SENATE: November 25, 1996

DATE OF APPROVAL: December 20, 1996

FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

SPONSOR STATEMENT: Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: ASSEMBLY: Yes

SENATE: No

FISCAL NOTE: No

VETO MESSAGE: No

MESSAGE ON SIGNING: No

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:  
REPORTS: No /

HEARINGS: No

KBP:pp

P.L. 1996, CHAPTER 145, *approved December 20, 1996*  
Assembly No. 1742 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning the costs of graduation and supplementing  
2 P.L.1979, c.241 (C.18A:7C-1 et seq.).

3

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

6

7 1. A board of education shall <sup>1</sup>**[not exclude from a graduation**  
8 **ceremony or from receipt of the school yearbook any graduating**  
9 **pupil]** establish a policy to address the cost of the graduation  
10 ceremony and the cost of a yearbook for graduating pupils who have  
11 a financial hardship. No graduating pupil shall be excluded from a  
12 graduation ceremony<sup>1</sup> whose parent, legal guardian or other person  
13 having legal custody of the pupil is unable to pay the fees required for  
14 that graduation ceremony <sup>1</sup>**[or yearbook]** <sup>1</sup>because of financial  
15 hardship. In determining financial hardship, the criteria shall be the  
16 same as the Statewide eligibility standards established by the State  
17 Board of Education for free and reduced price meals under the State  
18 school lunch program.

19

20 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

21

22

23

24

25 Prohibits school board from excluding certain pupils from  
26 graduation ceremony or receipt of yearbook.

**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.**

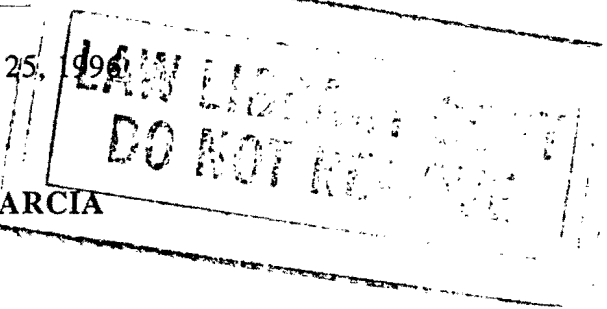
**Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:**

<sup>1</sup> **Assembly AED committee amendments adopted June 3, 1996.**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MARCH 25, 1996

By Assemblyman GARCIA



1 AN ACT concerning the costs of graduation and supplementing  
2 P.L.1979, c.241 (C.18A:7C-1 et seq.).

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

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7 1. A board of education shall not exclude from a graduation  
8 ceremony or from receipt of the school yearbook any graduating pupil  
9 whose parent, legal guardian or other person having legal custody of  
10 the pupil is unable to pay the fees required for that graduation  
11 ceremony or yearbook because of financial hardship. In determining  
12 financial hardship, the criteria shall be the same as the Statewide  
13 eligibility standards established by the State Board of Education for  
14 free and reduced price meals under the State school lunch program.

15  
16 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

17  
18  
19 STATEMENT

20  
21 This bill provides that a board of education may not exclude from  
22 a graduation ceremony or from receipt of the school yearbook any  
23 graduating pupil whose parent, legal guardian or other person having  
24 legal custody of the pupil is unable to pay the fees required for that  
25 graduation ceremony or yearbook because of financial hardship. In  
26 determining financial hardship, the criteria are the same as the  
27 Statewide eligibility standards established by the State Board of  
28 Education for free and reduced price meals under the State school  
29 lunch program.

30 Some school districts have imposed a graduation fee in excess of  
31 \$200 which includes charges for such items as the rental of a cap and  
32 gown.

33  
34  
35  
36 Prohibits school board from excluding certain pupils from  
37 graduation ceremony or receipt of yearbook.

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**ASSEMBLY, No. 1742**

with committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JUNE 3, 1996

The Assembly Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1742 with committee amendments.

As amended by committee, this bill requires a board of education to establish a policy to address the cost of the graduation ceremony and the cost of a yearbook for graduating pupils who have a financial hardship. The bill further provides that no graduating pupil could be excluded from a graduation ceremony whose parent, legal guardian or other person having legal custody of the pupil is unable to pay the fees required for that graduation ceremony because of financial hardship. In determining financial hardship, the criteria would be the same as the Statewide eligibility standards established by the State Board of Education for free and reduced price meals under the State school lunch program.

The committee amended the bill to require a policy addressing the cost of the graduation ceremony and the cost of a yearbook and to delete reference to receipt of a yearbook.