

# SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **SENATE, No. 3897**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JUNE 20, 2023

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3897, with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill authorizes the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority to award summer tuition aid grants for eligible students in the summer 2024 semester.

Under current law, a student may be eligible for a summer tuition aid grant in the summer 2023 semester only, provided that: the student is enrolled in six or more credit hours in the summer term; the courses for which the summer tuition aid grant is to be applied are in the same undergraduate program at the same institution in which the student was last enrolled during the fall or spring semesters of the preceding academic year; and the courses for which the summer tuition aid grant is to be applied may be credited towards the student's graduation or academic major requirements.

The bill amends current law to extend summer tuition aid grants to the summer 2024 semester. The bill also stipulates that summer 2024 grants are to be funded by any amounts as may be required from the unexpended balance of funds previously awarded for tuition aid grants. Finally, the bill permits the Legislature to appropriate additional funds for the summer 2024 grants by a separate line item.

#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments clarify that the courses for which the summer tuition aid grant is to be applied are in the same undergraduate program at the same institution in which the student was *last* enrolled and that the enrollment may have been in the fall *or* the spring semester, rather than both the fall and spring. The committee amendments also make a technical correction.

#### FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services estimates that this bill will lead to a one-time State expenditure increase between \$26.9 million and \$35.8 million in FY 2025 associated with providing tuition aid grants for coursework completed in summer 2024.