

ASSEMBLY HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3897

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 20, 2023

The Assembly Higher Education Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3897 (1R), with committee amendments.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill authorizes the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority to award annual summer tuition aid grants to eligible students.

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 amended bill revises current law to annually extend summer tuition aid grants. The amended bill 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. The amended bill also permits the Legislature to appropriate additional funds for the summer 2024 grants by a separate line item.

Finally, the amended bill stipulates that beginning with the summer 2025 semester, summer tuition aid grants are to be funded by a separate line item in the annual appropriations act.

As amended and reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 3897 (1R) is identical to Assembly Bill No. 5578, which was also amended and reported by the committee on this date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

- authorize the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority to award annual summer tuition aid grants to eligible students;
- 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 enrolled during the

student's most recent semester of enrollment in the preceding academic year; and

- stipulate that summer tuition aid grants awarded in the summer 2025 semester and subsequent summer semesters are to be funded by a separate line item in the annual appropriations act.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

This bill was introduced in the 2022-2023 legislative session as Senate Bill No. 3897. This bill was amended and reported by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee on June 20, 2023. This bill passed the Senate on June 26, 2023 and was received in the Assembly and referred to the Assembly Higher Education Committee.