

SENATE, No. 532

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Senator NELLIE POU

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Testa, Singleton and Greenstein

SYNOPSIS

Provides tuition fee waiver apprenticeship courses.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Labor Committee with technical review.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/10/2022)

1 AN ACT concerning apprenticeship tuition fees and supplementing
2 chapter 62 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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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. As used in this act:

8 “Eligible person” means an individual whose gross aggregate
9 household income at the time of admission to a New Jersey public
10 institution of higher education or county vocational school providing
11 post-secondary vocational education is below the State household
12 median income.

13 “Gross aggregate household income” means the total annual
14 income of all members of a household, from whatever source derived,
15 including, but not limited to, pension, annuity, retirement and Social
16 Security benefits received during the taxable year.

17 “Registered apprenticeship” means an apprenticeship in a program
18 providing to each trainee combined classroom and on-the-job
19 training under the direct and close supervision of a highly skilled
20 worker in an occupation recognized as an apprenticeable trade, and
21 registered by the Office of Apprenticeship of the United States
22 Department of Labor and meeting the standards established by that
23 office.

24 “State household median income” means the point that divides the
25 gross aggregate household income distribution into halves, one-half
26 with income above the median and the other with income below the
27 median as determined by the United States Census Bureau American
28 Community Survey. The median is based on the income distribution
29 of all households, including those with no income in the State.

30 “Tuition” means the charges imposed by a New Jersey public
31 institution of higher education or county vocational school providing
32 post-secondary vocational education for enrollment at the institution
33 or school.

34

35 2. a. An eligible person shall be permitted to attend, tuition-free,
36 courses available at any public institution of higher education or county
37 vocational school which are qualified to serve as the classroom training
38 or education component of a registered apprenticeship program in
39 which the person is participating as a registered apprentice if:

40 (1) tuition costs are not covered by an employer through
41 employment benefits;

42 (2) the person completes a Free Application for Federal Student Aid
43 each year within the established deadlines and has exhausted all
44 financial aid assistance; and

45 (3) the person retains employment as an active registered apprentice
46 under the registered apprenticeship program and maintains satisfactory
47 academic progress to qualify for renewal of the tuition waiver.

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1 b. The State shall reimburse a public institution of higher education
2 or county vocational school for the tuition cost of each eligible person
3 who enrolls in the institution pursuant to the provisions of this section.
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5 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
6 the first full academic year following the date of enactment.