

[Third Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 1181

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Assemblywoman BRITNEE N. TIMBERLAKE

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

Assemblyman WILLIAM F. MOEN, JR.

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Senator ROBERT W. SINGER

District 30 (Monmouth and Ocean)

Co-Sponsored by:

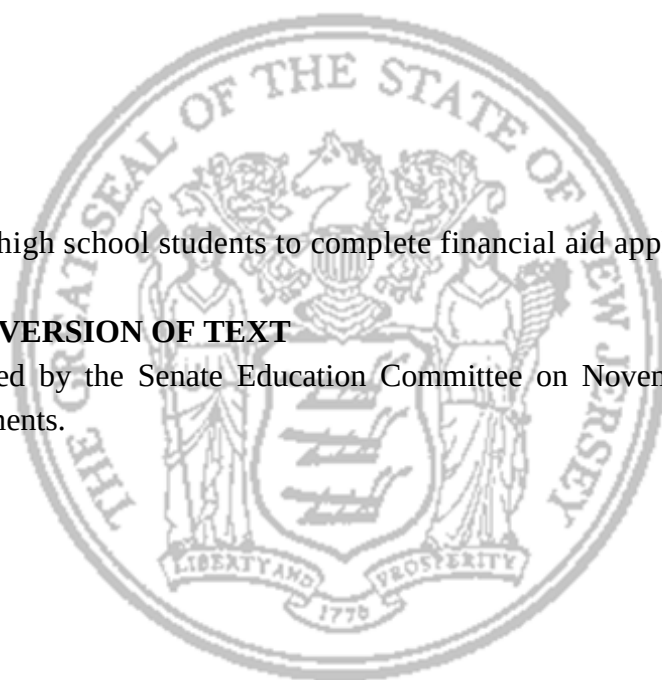
Assemblywomen Quijano, Reynolds-Jackson, Pintor Marin, McKnight, Sumter, Assemblymen Conaway, Atkins, Wimberly, Assemblywoman Jimenez, Assemblymen Mejia, McKeon, Assemblywomen Mosquera, Lopez, Senators Cunningham, Burgess, Pou and Ruiz

SYNOPSIS

Requires high school students to complete financial aid applications.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Education Committee on November 27, 2023, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/21/2023)

1 AN ACT concerning ³~~graduation requirements for~~³ high school
 2 students ¹~~and supplementing chapter 7C of Title 18A of the~~
 3 New Jersey Statutes¹ ³~~and financial aid applications~~³.

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

7
 8 1. a. Beginning with the ³~~2022-2023~~³ 2023-2024³ grade 11
 9 class, ¹~~and for two school years thereafter,~~¹ ³~~the State Board of~~
 10 Education shall require that the local graduation requirements
 11 adopted by³ a board of education or a board of trustees of a charter
 12 school ³~~include the requirement that~~ shall require³ a student¹, and
 13 the student's parent or guardian, if applicable,¹ ³~~to~~³ complete and
 14 submit a financial aid application in a form prescribed by the
 15 Higher Education Student Assistance Authority ¹~~as a prerequisite to~~
 16 the student receiving a high school diploma from a public high
 17 school or charter school unless a waiver is submitted to the school
 18 district or charter school as set forth in subsection b. of this
 19 section¹.

20 b. ³~~(1)~~³ A student shall be exempt from the ¹~~graduation~~¹
 21 requirement ³~~in subsection a. of this section~~³ if the student ¹~~or the~~
 22 student's parent or guardian¹ submits to the school district ¹~~or~~
 23 charter school¹ ³~~:~~

24 (1)³ a ¹~~waiver~~¹ form signed by the parent or guardian, or by the
 25 student if ¹~~he~~ the student¹ is at least 18 years of age, requesting
 26 the exemption ¹ ³~~of~~ ³~~from~~ the requirement¹ ³~~; or~~ ³.

27 (2) ¹~~a form signed by the school counselor authorizing the~~
 28 exemption for good cause as defined by the State board ³~~if~~ ³~~If~~
 29 the student is under 18 years of age and a form signed by the parent
 30 or guardian cannot be reasonably obtained, the student's school
 31 counselor may authorize the waiver as permitted by regulations
 32 promulgated by the ²~~Commissioner of Education~~¹ State Board of
 33 Education pursuant to subsection h. of this section².

34 c. The ¹~~Commissioner of Education~~ Executive Director of
 35 the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority¹, in consultation
 36 with the ¹~~Executive Director of the Higher Education Student~~
 37 Assistance Authority Commissioner of Education¹, shall provide
 38 ²~~a list of~~² resources for school districts, ³~~charter schools,~~³
 39 parents, and students that include instructions on how to complete a
 40 financial aid application prescribed by the authority. ²~~The~~
 41 resources shall include webinars, presentations, guidance
 42 documents, and a list of available State and federal resources.² The
 43 executive director of the authority shall make available such

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AHI committee amendments adopted March 14, 2022.

²Assembly AED committee amendments adopted June 8, 2023.

³Senate SED committee amendments adopted November 27, 2023.

resources as are necessary directly to school counselors or other school employees ¹who assist students in completing the financial aid application who shall share the ³information resources³ with students and with the students' parents or guardians¹.

d. Each school district ³and charter school³ shall annually notify students and the parents or guardians of the requirement established pursuant to this section.

e. ¹The Department of Education shall verify which students have met the requirement established pursuant to this section with the authority. The department shall include that information in the student's record.

f. The Department of Education shall include the number of students who have met the requirement established pursuant to this section in the School Report Card issued pursuant to P.L.1995, c.235 (C.18A:7E-1 et seq.).¹

No adverse action shall be taken by a board of education or a board of trustees of a charter school against any student ³who is exempted due to a student's receipt of an exemption³ from the requirement to complete and submit a financial aid application pursuant to subsection b. of this section.

f. Nothing in this act shall be construed as requiring school counselors, or any other school employee, to assist students in completing the financial aid application. Nothing in this act shall be construed as creating a private right of action against the school district ³, charter school,³ or the State upon compliance or noncompliance with the provisions of this act.¹

²g. The Executive Director of the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority shall make the resources listed in subsection c. of this section available to ³public four year³ institutions of higher education in order to facilitate the delivery of technical assistance to area high schools.

h. The State Board of Education shall adopt, pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.²

³i. The executive director of the authority shall prepare and issue to the Department of Education, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), a report that includes the number of students that completed a financial aid form pursuant to subsection a. of this section, as well as the number of waivers submitted to school districts or charter schools pursuant to subsection b. of this section no later than three years following the effective date of this act.³

2. This act shall take effect immediately.