

STATE OF NEW YORK

6821

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

April 8, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. BICHOTTE HERMELYN, RICHARDSON, WILLIAMS, SIMON --
read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to redefining science,
technology, engineering, and math education (STEM)

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Legislative findings and intent. The legislature hereby
2 finds that the state requires a comprehensive approach to science, tech-
3 nology, engineering, and math education (STEM). Under current law,
4 little to no incentives or programmatic funding exists to push STEM
5 education forward. The legislature further finds it essential to bring
6 back business and industry in STEM education programs by getting them
7 involved for career development. Furthermore, the legislature finds it
8 questionable whether current curriculum focuses on the adequate areas to
9 provide children with the standards needed to fulfill a math or science
10 job opportunity in the future.

11 Therefore be it resolved that the legislature intends to mirror the
12 federal efforts underway to promote STEM and enable New York students to
13 compete internationally in educational fields that drive the global
14 economy and to provide the appropriate funding for STEM programs.

15 § 2. Section 669-e of the education law, as added by section 1 of part
16 BB of chapter 56 of the laws of 2018, subdivision 1 as amended by chap-
17 ter 329 of the laws of 2018, is amended to read as follows:

18 § 669-e. New York state science, technology, engineering and mathemat-
19 ics incentive program. 1. Undergraduate students who are matriculated in
20 an approved undergraduate program leading to a career in science,
21 computer science, technology, engineering, including design skills and
22 practice, or mathematics at a New York state public institution of high-
23 er education for the purpose of subdivision two of this section, or a
24 New York state private degree granting institution of higher education
25 for the purpose of subdivision two-a of this section, shall be eligible

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 for an award under this section, provided the applicant: (a) graduates
2 from a high school located in New York state during or after the two
3 thousand thirteen--fourteen school year; and (b) graduates within the
4 top ten percent of his or her high school class; and (c) enrolls in
5 full-time study each term beginning in the fall term after his or her
6 high school graduation in an approved undergraduate program in science,
7 computer science, technology, engineering, including design skills and
8 practice, or mathematics, as defined by the corporation, at a New York
9 state institution of higher education; and (d) signs a contract with the
10 corporation agreeing that his or her award will be converted to a
11 student loan in the event the student fails to comply with the terms of
12 this program as set forth in subdivision four of this section; and (e)
13 complies with the applicable provisions of this article and all require-
14 ments promulgated by the corporation for the administration of the
15 program.

16 2. Awards shall be granted beginning with the two thousand fourteen--
17 two thousand fifteen academic year and thereafter to applicants at New
18 York state public institutions of higher education that the corporation
19 has determined are eligible to receive such awards. The corporation
20 shall grant such awards in an amount equal to the amount of undergradu-
21 ate tuition for residents of New York state charged by the state univer-
22 sity of New York or actual tuition charged, whichever is less; provided,
23 however, (i) a student who receives educational grants and/or scholar-
24 ships that cover the student's full cost of attendance shall not be
25 eligible for an award under this program; (ii) for a student who
26 receives educational grants and/or scholarships that cover less than the
27 student's full cost of attendance, such grants and/or scholarships shall
28 not be deemed duplicative of this program and may be held concurrently
29 with an award under this program, provided that the combined benefits do
30 not exceed the student's full cost of attendance; and (iii) an award
31 under this program shall be applied to tuition after the application of
32 all other educational grants and scholarships limited to tuition and
33 shall be reduced in an amount equal to such educational grants and/or
34 scholarships. Upon notification of an award under this program, the
35 institution shall defer the amount of tuition equal to the award. No
36 award shall be final until the recipient's successful completion of a
37 term has been certified by the institution.

38 2-a. Within amounts appropriated therefor and based on availability of
39 funds, beginning with the two thousand eighteen--two thousand nineteen
40 academic year and thereafter, awards shall be granted to applicants at
41 New York state private degree granting institutions of higher education
42 that the corporation has determined are eligible to receive such awards.
43 The corporation shall grant such awards in an amount equal to the amount
44 of undergraduate tuition for residents of New York state charged by the
45 state university of New York or actual tuition charged, whichever is
46 less; provided, however, (i) a student who receives educational grants
47 and/or scholarships that cover the student's full cost of attendance
48 shall not be eligible for an award under this program; (ii) for a
49 student who receives educational grants and/or scholarships that cover
50 less than the student's full cost of attendance, such grants and/or
51 scholarships shall not be deemed duplicative of this program and may be
52 held concurrently with an award under this program, provided that the
53 combined benefits do not exceed the student's full cost of attendance;
54 and (iii) an award under this program shall be applied to tuition after
55 the application of all other educational grants and scholarships limited
56 to tuition and shall be reduced in an amount equal to such educational

1 grants and/or scholarships. Upon notification of an award under this
2 program, the institution shall defer the amount of tuition equal to the
3 award. No award shall be final until the recipient's successful
4 completion of a term has been certified by the institution.

5 3. An eligible recipient shall not receive an award for more than four
6 academic years of full-time undergraduate study or five academic years
7 if the program of study normally requires five years, excluding any
8 allowable interruption of study.

9 4. The corporation shall convert to a student loan the full amount of
10 the award given pursuant to this section, plus interest, according to a
11 schedule to be determined by the corporation if: (a) a recipient fails
12 to complete an approved undergraduate program in science, computer
13 science, technology, engineering, including design skills and practice,
14 or mathematics or changes majors to a program of undergraduate study
15 other than in science, computer science, technology, engineering,
16 including design skills and practice, or mathematics; or (b) upon
17 completion of such undergraduate degree program a recipient fails to
18 either (i) complete five years of continuous full time employment in the
19 science, computer science, technology, engineering, including design
20 skills and practice, or mathematics field with a public or private enti-
21 ty located within New York state, or (ii) maintain residency in New York
22 state for such period of employment; or (c) a recipient fails to respond
23 to requests by the corporation for the status of his or her academic or
24 professional progress. The terms and conditions of this subdivision
25 shall be deferred for individuals who graduate with a degree in an
26 approved undergraduate program in science, computer science, technology,
27 engineering, including design skills and practice, or mathematics and
28 enroll on at least a half-time basis in a graduate or higher degree
29 program or other professional licensure degree program until they are
30 conferred a degree, and shall also be deferred for any interruption in
31 undergraduate study or employment as established by the rules and regu-
32 lations of the corporation. The terms and conditions of this subdivision
33 may also be deferred for a grace period, to be established by the corpo-
34 ration, following the completion of an approved undergraduate program in
35 science, computer science, technology, engineering, including design
36 skills and practice, or mathematics a graduate or higher degree program
37 or other professional licensure degree program. Any obligation to comply
38 with such provisions as outlined in this section shall be cancelled upon
39 the death of the recipient. Notwithstanding any provisions of this
40 subdivision to the contrary, the corporation is authorized to promulgate
41 rules and regulations to provide for the waiver or suspension of any
42 financial obligation which would involve extreme hardship.

43 5. The corporation is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations,
44 and may promulgate emergency regulations, necessary for the implementa-
45 tion of the provisions of this section, including, but not limited to,
46 the rate of interest charged for repayment of the student loan and the
47 criteria for distributing the awards, which may include a lottery or
48 other form of random selection for awards distributed pursuant to subdi-
49 vision two-a of this section.

50 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.