

STATE OF NEW YORK

7553

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

November 29, 2021

Introduced by Sen. BROUK -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to the New York state masters-in-mental health incentive scholarship program

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

1 Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 669-i
2 to read as follows:

3 § 669-i. New York state masters-in-mental health incentive scholarship
4 program. 1. Students who are matriculated in an approved master's degree
5 in mental health program at a New York state public institution of high-
6 er education leading to a career as a mental health clinician shall be
7 eligible for an award under this section, provided the applicant: (a)
8 was a New York state resident for twelve continuous months prior to the
9 beginning of the term; (b) is a United States citizen; is an eligible
10 non-citizen; or is eligible to apply for citizenship within twelve
11 months; (c) achieved academic excellence as an undergraduate student
12 from a college or university located in this state with a 3.0 grade
13 point average or higher upon completion of such undergraduate study; (d)
14 enrolls in full-time study in an approved master's degree for mental
15 health practitioners program at a New York state public institution of
16 higher education or private not-for-profit college or university in
17 this state which leads to licensure as a mental health counselor, family
18 therapist, creative arts therapist, psychoanalyst, or applied behavioral
19 analyst; be enrolled in such program on a full-time basis; (e) executes
20 a service contract agreeing to be employed for four years by a non-pro-
21 fit organization licensed, funded or designated by the office of mental
22 health, the office of addiction services and supports, or the office for
23 persons with developmental disabilities; (f) be in a non-default status
24 on a student loan made under any New York state or federal education
25 loan program or repayment of any New York state award; (g) earn a cumu-
26 lative grade point average of 3.0 or higher each term of graduate study;
27 and (h) complies with the applicable provisions of this article and all

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

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1 requirements promulgated by the corporation for the administration of
2 the program.

3 2. Within amounts appropriated therefor, awards shall be granted to
4 applicants that the corporation has certified are eligible to receive
5 such awards. Up to five hundred awards may be granted to new recipients
6 annually. Such awards shall be granted upon successful completion of
7 each term, as defined by the corporation.

8 3. An award shall entitle the recipient to annual payments for not
9 more than two academic years of full-time graduate study leading to
10 certification as a mental health clinician.

11 4. The corporation shall grant such awards in an amount equal to the
12 annual tuition charged to state resident students attending a graduate
13 program full-time at the state university of New York, or actual tuition
14 charged, whichever is less; provided, however, (a) a student who
15 receives educational grants and/or scholarships that cover the student's
16 full cost of attendance shall not be eligible for an award under this
17 program; (b) for a student who receives educational grants and/or schol-
18 arships that cover less than the student's full cost of attendance, such
19 grants and/or scholarships shall not be deemed duplicative of this
20 program and may be held concurrently with an award under this program,
21 provided that the combined benefits do not exceed the student's full
22 cost of attendance; and (c) an award under this program shall be applied
23 to tuition after the application of all other educational grants and
24 scholarships limited to tuition and shall be reduced in an amount equal
25 to such educational grants and/or scholarships. Upon notification of an
26 award under this program, the institution shall defer the amount of
27 tuition equal to the award. No award shall be final until the recipi-
28 ent's successful completion of a term has been certified by the institu-
29 tion.

30 5. The corporation shall convert to a student loan the full amount of
31 the award granted pursuant to this section, plus interest, according to
32 a schedule to be determined by the corporation if: (a) two years after
33 the completion of the degree program and receipt of initial certifi-
34 cation it is found that a recipient is not employed for four years by
35 a not-for-profit organization licensed, funded or designated by the
36 office of mental health, the office of addiction services and supports,
37 or the office for persons with disabilities; (b) a recipient fails to
38 complete his or her graduate degree program in mental health; (c) a
39 recipient fails to receive or maintain his or her license in New York
40 state for the required period; or (d) a recipient fails to respond to
41 requests by the corporation for the status of his or her academic or
42 professional progress. The terms and conditions of this subdivision
43 shall be deferred for any interruption in graduate study or employment
44 as established by the rules and regulations of the corporation. Any
45 obligation to comply with such provisions as outlined in this section
46 shall be cancelled upon the death of the recipient. Notwithstanding any
47 provisions of this subdivision to the contrary, the corporation is
48 authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to provide for the waiver
49 or suspension of any financial obligation which would involve extreme
50 hardship.

51 6. The corporation is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations,
52 and may promulgate emergency regulations, necessary for the implementa-
53 tion of the provisions of this section including, but not limited to,
54 the criteria for the provision of awards on a competitive basis, and the
55 rate of interest charged for repayment of the student loan.

56 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.