S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

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2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

May 1, 2009

Introduced by M. of A. MILLER, O'MARA, ALFANO, WALKER, DUPREY, FINCH -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. AMEDORE, BACALLES, BARCLAY, CROUCH, ERRIGO, McDONOUGH, RAIA, SCOZZAFAVA, TOBACCO, TOWNSEND -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to establishing the New York state nuclear engineering degree incentive program; and making an appropriation therefor

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

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

S 669-E. NEW YORK STATE NUCLEAR ENGINEERING DEGREE INCENTIVE PROGRAM. 1. NOTWITHSTANDING SUBDIVISION FIVE OF SECTION SIX HUNDRED SIXTY-ONE OF THIS PART, UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS WHO ARE MATRICULATED IN AN APPROVED UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM AT DEGREE GRANTING INSTITUTIONS LEADING TO A CAREER AS A NUCLEAR ENGINEER SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR AN AWARD UNDER THIS SECTION, PROVIDED THE APPLICANT COMPLIES WITH THE APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE AND ALL REQUIREMENTS PROMULGATED BY THE CORPORATION FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM.

2. WITHIN AMOUNTS APPROPRIATED THEREFOR, AWARDS SHALL BE GRANTED ON A COMPETITIVE BASIS TO APPLICANTS THAT THE CORPORATION HAS CERTIFIED ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE SUCH AWARDS. UP TO TWENTY AWARDS MAY BE MADE TO NEW RECIPIENTS ANNUALLY. SUCH AWARDS SHALL BE MADE TO RECIPIENTS AFTER THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF EACH ACADEMIC YEAR, AS DEFINED BY THE CORPORATION.

3. AN AWARD SHALL ENTITLE THE RECIPIENT TO ANNUAL PAYMENTS FOR NOT MORE THAN FOUR ACADEMIC YEARS OF FULL-TIME UNDERGRADUATE STUDY LEADING TO CERTIFICATION AS A NUCLEAR ENGINEER.

4. RECIPIENTS SHALL RECEIVE AN ANNUAL PAYMENT FOR THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF AN ACADEMIC YEAR, EQUAL TO THE ANNUAL TUITION CHARGED TO STATE RESIDENT STUDENTS ATTENDING AN UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM FULL-TIME AT

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

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THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, OR ACTUAL TUITION CHARGED, WHICHEVER IS LESS.

5. THE CORPORATION SHALL CONVERT TO A STUDENT LOAN THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE AWARD GIVEN PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, PLUS INTEREST, ACCORDING TO A SCHEDULE TO BE DETERMINED BY THE CORPORATION IF: (A) IT IS FOUND THAT A STUDENT, HAVING RECEIVED THE ANNUAL AWARD TRANSFERS TO AN OUT-OF-STATE INSTITUTION IN THAT ACADEMIC YEAR OR (B) A RECIPIENT FAILS TO COMPLETE THEIR DEGREE PROGRAM OR CHANGES MAJORS TO AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAM OTHER THAN NUCLEAR ENGINEERING; OR (C) A RECIPIENT FAILS TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS BY THE CORPORATION FOR THE STATUS OF HIS OR HER ACADEMIC OR PROFESSIONAL PROGRESS.

6. THE CORPORATION IS AUTHORIZED TO PROMULGATE RULES AND REGULATIONS NECESSARY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION, INCLUDING THE CRITERIA FOR THE PROVISION OF AWARDS ON A COMPETITIVE BASIS AND THE RATE OF INTEREST CHARGED FOR REPAYMENT OF THE STUDENT LOAN.

S 2. Section 605 of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 11-a to read as follows:

11-A. NEW YORK STATE NUCLEAR ENGINEERING DEGREE INCENTIVE PROGRAM AWARDS PURSUANT TO SECTION SIX HUNDRED SIXTY-NINE-E OF THIS TITLE.

S 3. The sum of one hundred thousand dollars ($100,000), or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to the department of education out of any moneys in the state treasury in the general fund to the credit of the higher education services corporation, not otherwise appropriated, and made immediately available for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of section 669-e of the education law, as added by section one of this act. Such moneys shall be payable on the audit and warrant of the comptroller on vouchers certified or approved by the commissioner of education in the manner prescribed by law.

S 4. This act shall take effect on the first of July next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law; provided, however, that effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized and directed to be made and completed on or before such effective date.