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

7793

I N S E N A T E

June 9, 2014

Introduced by Sen. LAVALLE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to establishing the free reimbursement for excellence in education community colleges program

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 679-g to read as follows:

S 679-G. FREE REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES (FREE CC) PROGRAM. 1. THE NEW YORK STATE FREE CC PROGRAM IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE CORPORATION FOR THE PURPOSES OF REIMBURSING STUDENTS' STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK (SUNY) OR CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK (CUNY) COMMUNITY COLLEGE TUITION COSTS.

2. TO BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR THIS PROGRAM AN APPLICANT MUST HAVE (A) GRADUATED FROM NEW YORK STATE HIGH SCHOOL OR COMPLETED A NEW YORK STATE GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM AND RECEIVED A GED; (B) MUST APPLY FOR ADMISSION AT A SUNY OR CUNY COMMUNITY COLLEGE WITHIN ONE YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION OR RECEIPT OF SUCH GED; (C) MUST ENROLL IN A SUNY OR CUNY COMMUNITY COLLEGE BEGINNING IN THE FALL OF TWO THOUSAND FIFTEEN OR THEREAFTER; (D) MUST HAVE FILED THE FEDERAL APPLICATION FOR STUDENT FINANCIAL AID (FASFA); (E) MUST ATTEND SUCH COMMUNITY COLLEGE ON A FULL-TIME BASIS; (F) MUST GRADUATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE WITH A 2.5 GRADE POINT AVERAGE OR ABOVE; (G) MUST GRADUATE WITHIN THREE YEARS FROM THE FIRST YEAR OF ENROLLMENT; AND (H) MUST FILE AN APPLICATION WITH THE NEW YORK STATE HIGHER EDUCATION SERVICES CORPORATION WITHIN ONE YEAR OF GRADUATING FROM SUCH COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

3. THE CORPORATION SHALL GRANT AWARDS TO STUDENTS WHO MEET THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS IN SUBDIVISION TWO OF THIS SECTION IN AN AMOUNT THAT REIMBURSES THE STUDENT FOR THE TOTAL OUT-OF-POCKET TUITION COSTS PAID BY SUCH STUDENT FOR ATTENDANCE AT A SUNY OR CUNY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, MINUS ANY OTHER AWARDS OR SCHOLARSHIPS RECEIVED BY SUCH STUDENT THAT WERE APPLIED TO TUITION COSTS. OTHER AWARDS THAT SHALL BE SUBTRACTED FROM THE FREE CC PROGRAM AWARD SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AWARDS OR FEDERAL PELL AWARDS.

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

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4. FREE CC PROGRAM AWARDS SHALL BE GRANTED PURSUANT TO APPROPRIATIONS MADE FOR SUCH PURPOSES AND PURSUANT TO RULES AND REGULATIONS PROMULGATED BY THE CORPORATION.

S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.