

9735

I N   A S S E M B L Y

April 5, 2016

---

Introduced by M. of A. SOLAGES -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to providing free SUNY, CUNY and community college tuition to volunteer firefighters

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

1     Section 1. Paragraph h of subdivision 2 of section 355 of the educa-  
2     tion law is amended by adding a new subparagraph 1-a to read as follows:  
3     (1-A) THE TRUSTEES SHALL IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM TO PERMIT ANY STUDENT WHO  
4     HAS BEEN ADMITTED TO A STATE-OPERATED INSTITUTION OF THE STATE UNIVERSI-  
5     TY TO ATTEND WITHOUT THE PAYMENT OF TUITION AND FEES IF SUCH STUDENT  
6     SERVES AS AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER AS DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION ONE  
7     OF SECTION TWO HUNDRED FIFTEEN OF THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW. THE  
8     PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH SHALL ONLY APPLY TO COSTS OF ONE UNDER-  
9     GRADUATE DEGREE AND ANY ADDITIONAL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH MORE THAN ONE  
10    SIMULTANEOUS UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE SHALL NOT BE COVERED BY THIS PROGRAM.  
11    (I) THE TRUSTEES SHALL PROVIDE AN APPLICATION PROCESS AND ADMINISTER  
12    THE PROGRAM ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:  
13    (A) ANY STUDENT ELIGIBLE FOR RESIDENT TUITION RATES IS ELIGIBLE FOR  
14    THIS PROGRAM.  
15    (B) THE STUDENT SHALL BE REQUIRED TO SERVE AS AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER  
16    FIREFIGHTER THROUGH THE COMPLETION OF HIS OR HER ACADEMIC PROGRAM.  
17    (C) STUDENTS SHALL BE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THEIR DEGREE PROGRAM WITHIN  
18    A MINIMUM PERIOD OF TIME TO BE SET BY THE TRUSTEES WHICH SHALL BE NO  
19    LESS THAN THREE YEARS AND NO MORE THAN FIVE YEARS.  
20    (D) THE STUDENT SHALL BE REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN A CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT  
21    AVERAGE (G.P.A.) OF AT LEAST 2.5 IN ORDER TO REMAIN ELIGIBLE FOR THE  
22    PROGRAM.  
23    (II) IF A STUDENT OR FORMER STUDENT FAILS TO FULFILL ANY OF THE  
24    REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN CLAUSE (I) OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH, THE TRUSTEES  
25    SHALL CONVERT TO A STUDENT LOAN THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE TUITION WHICH  
26    WOULD HAVE BEEN PAID BY SUCH STUDENT, AS DETERMINED BY THE NEW YORK  
27    STATE HIGHER EDUCATION SERVICES CORPORATION, PLUS INTEREST, ACCORDING TO  
28    A SCHEDULE TO BE DETERMINED BY SUCH CORPORATION. SUCH REPAYMENT MAY ALSO

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

LBD13042-03-6

1 BE REQUIRED IF A RECIPIENT FAILS TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION  
2 NECESSARY TO DETERMINE CONTINUED ELIGIBILITY OR FOR ADMINISTRATION OF  
3 THE PROGRAM.

4 (III) ANY STUDENT WHO ELECTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM UNDER THIS  
5 SUBPARAGRAPH SHALL BE REQUIRED TO APPLY FOR TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
6 FUNDING. FUNDS AWARDED ON THE TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SHALL BE  
7 APPLIED TOWARDS THE COST OF TUITION PRIOR TO AN AWARD UNDER THIS SUBPAR-  
8 AGRAPH.

9 (IV) STUDENTS SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OTHER COSTS INCLUDING HOUS-  
10 ING, FEES AND OTHER NON-TUITION RELATED CHARGES.

11 S 2. Subdivision 7 of section 6206 of the education law is amended by  
12 adding a new paragraph (d) to read as follows:

13 (D) THE TRUSTEES SHALL IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM TO PERMIT ANY STUDENT WHO  
14 HAS BEEN ADMITTED TO AN INSTITUTION OPERATED BY THE CITY UNIVERSITY TO  
15 ATTEND WITHOUT THE PAYMENT OF TUITION AND FEES IF SUCH STUDENT FULFILLS  
16 THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUCH PROGRAM PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS  
17 PARAGRAPH.

18 (I) THE TRUSTEES SHALL PROVIDE AN APPLICATION PROCESS AND ADMINISTER  
19 THE PROGRAM ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

20 (A) ANY STUDENT ELIGIBLE FOR RESIDENT TUITION RATES IS ELIGIBLE FOR  
21 THIS PROGRAM.

22 (B) THE STUDENT SHALL BE REQUIRED TO SERVE AS AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER  
23 FIREFIGHTER THROUGH THE COMPLETION OF HIS OR HER ACADEMIC PROGRAM.

24 (C) STUDENTS SHALL BE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THEIR DEGREE PROGRAM WITHIN  
25 A MINIMUM PERIOD OF TIME TO BE SET BY THE TRUSTEES WHICH SHALL BE NO  
26 LESS THAN THREE YEARS AND NO MORE THAN FIVE YEARS.

27 (D) THE STUDENT SHALL BE REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN A CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT  
28 AVERAGE (G.P.A.) OF AT LEAST 2.5 IN ORDER TO REMAIN ELIGIBLE FOR THE  
29 PROGRAM.

30 (II) IF A STUDENT OR FORMER STUDENT FAILS TO FULFILL ANY OF THE  
31 REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE TRUS-  
32 TEES SHALL CONVERT TO A STUDENT LOAN THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE TUITION  
33 WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN PAID BY SUCH STUDENT, AS DETERMINED BY THE NEW  
34 YORK STATE HIGHER EDUCATION SERVICES CORPORATION, PLUS INTEREST, ACCORD-  
35 ING TO A SCHEDULE TO BE DETERMINED BY SUCH CORPORATION. SUCH REPAYMENT  
36 MAY ALSO BE REQUIRED IF A RECIPIENT FAILS TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS FOR  
37 INFORMATION NECESSARY TO DETERMINE CONTINUED ELIGIBILITY OR FOR ADMINIS-  
38 TRATION OF THE PROGRAM.

39 (III) ANY STUDENT WHO ELECTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM UNDER THIS  
40 PARAGRAPH SHALL BE REQUIRED TO APPLY FOR TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
41 FUNDING. FUNDS AWARDED ON THE TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SHALL BE  
42 APPLIED TOWARDS THE COST OF TUITION PRIOR TO AN AWARD UNDER THIS SUBPAR-  
43 AGRAPH.

44 (IV) STUDENTS SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OTHER COSTS INCLUDING HOUS-  
45 ING, FEES AND OTHER NON-TUITION RELATED CHARGES.

46 S 3. Subdivision 1 of section 6304 of the education law is amended by  
47 adding a new paragraph e to read as follows:

48 E. THE TRUSTEES, SPONSORS OR OTHER GOVERNING BODY OF A COMMUNITY  
49 COLLEGE SHALL IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM TO PERMIT ANY STUDENT WHO HAS BEEN  
50 ADMITTED TO SUCH COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO ATTEND WITHOUT THE PAYMENT OF  
51 TUITION AND FEES IF SUCH STUDENT FULFILLS THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUCH  
52 PROGRAM PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS PARAGRAPH.

53 (I) THE TRUSTEES SHALL PROVIDE AN APPLICATION PROCESS AND ADMINISTER  
54 THE PROGRAM ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

55 (A) ANY STUDENT ELIGIBLE FOR RESIDENT TUITION RATES IS ELIGIBLE FOR  
56 THIS PROGRAM.

1 (B) THE STUDENT SHALL BE REQUIRED TO SERVE AS AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER  
2 FIREFIGHTER THROUGH THE COMPLETION OF HIS OR HER ACADEMIC PROGRAM.

3 (C) STUDENTS SHALL BE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THEIR DEGREE PROGRAM WITHIN  
4 A MINIMUM PERIOD OF TIME TO BE SET BY THE TRUSTEES WHICH SHALL BE NO  
5 LESS THAN THREE YEARS AND NO MORE THAN FIVE YEARS.

6 (D) THE STUDENT SHALL BE REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN A CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT  
7 AVERAGE (G.P.A.) OF AT LEAST 2.5 IN ORDER TO REMAIN ELIGIBLE FOR THE  
8 PROGRAM.

9 (II) IF A STUDENT OR FORMER STUDENT FAILS TO FULFILL ANY OF THE  
10 REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE TRUS-  
11 TEES SHALL CONVERT TO A STUDENT LOAN THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE TUITION  
12 WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN PAID BY SUCH STUDENT, AS DETERMINED BY THE NEW  
13 YORK STATE HIGHER EDUCATION SERVICES CORPORATION, PLUS INTEREST, ACCORD-  
14 ING TO A SCHEDULE TO BE DETERMINED BY SUCH CORPORATION. SUCH REPAYMENT  
15 MAY ALSO BE REQUIRED IF A RECIPIENT FAILS TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS FOR  
16 INFORMATION NECESSARY TO DETERMINE CONTINUED ELIGIBILITY OR FOR ADMINIS-  
17 TRATION OF THE PROGRAM.

18 (III) ANY STUDENT WHO ELECTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM UNDER THIS  
19 PARAGRAPH SHALL BE REQUIRED TO APPLY FOR TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
20 FUNDING. FUNDS AWARDED ON THE TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SHALL BE  
21 APPLIED TOWARDS THE COST OF TUITION PRIOR TO AN AWARD UNDER THIS SUBPAR-  
22 AGRAPH.

23 (IV) STUDENTS SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OTHER COSTS INCLUDING HOUS-  
24 ING, FEES AND OTHER NON-TUITION RELATED CHARGES.

25 S 4. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall  
26 have become a law.