

484--A

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

(PREFILED)

January 7, 2015

Introduced by Sen. LAVALLE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to establishing the Reimbursement for educational achievement and proficiency (REAP) 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 679-g
2 to read as follows:
3 S 679-G. REIMBURSEMENT FOR EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AND PROFICIENCY
4 (REAP) PROGRAM. 1. THE NEW YORK STATE REAP PROGRAM IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED
5 TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE CORPORATION FOR THE PURPOSES OF REIMBURSING
6 STUDENTS' STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK (SUNY) OR CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW
7 YORK (CUNY) COMMUNITY COLLEGE TUITION COSTS.
8 2. TO BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR THIS PROGRAM AN APPLICANT (A) MUST HAVE
9 GRADUATED FROM A NEW YORK STATE HIGH SCHOOL OR COMPLETED A NEW YORK
10 STATE GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM AND RECEIVED A GED; (B) MUST APPLY FOR
11 ADMISSION AT A SUNY OR CUNY COMMUNITY COLLEGE WITHIN ONE YEAR OF HIGH
12 SCHOOL GRADUATION OR RECEIPT OF SUCH GED; (C) MUST ENROLL IN A SUNY OR
13 CUNY COMMUNITY COLLEGE BEGINNING IN THE FALL OF TWO THOUSAND FIFTEEN OR
14 THEREAFTER; (D) MUST HAVE FILED THE FEDERAL APPLICATION FOR STUDENT
15 FINANCIAL AID (FASFA); (E) MUST ATTEND SUCH COMMUNITY COLLEGE ON A
16 FULL-TIME BASIS; (F) MUST GRADUATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE WITH A 2.5 GRADE
17 POINT AVERAGE OR ABOVE; (G) MUST GRADUATE WITHIN THREE YEARS FROM THE
18 FIRST YEAR OF ENROLLMENT; AND (H) MUST FILE AN APPLICATION WITH THE NEW
19 YORK STATE HIGHER EDUCATION SERVICES CORPORATION WITHIN ONE YEAR OF
20 GRADUATING FROM SUCH COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

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

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1 3. THE CORPORATION SHALL GRANT AWARDS TO STUDENTS WHO MEET THE ELIGI-
2 BILITY REQUIREMENTS IN SUBDIVISION TWO OF THIS SECTION IN AN AMOUNT THAT
3 REIMBURSES THE STUDENT FOR THE TOTAL OUT-OF-POCKET TUITION COSTS PAID BY
4 SUCH STUDENT FOR ATTENDANCE AT A SUNY OR CUNY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, MINUS
5 ANY OTHER AWARDS OR SCHOLARSHIPS RECEIVED BY SUCH STUDENT THAT WERE
6 APPLIED TO TUITION COSTS. OTHER AWARDS THAT SHALL BE SUBTRACTED FROM THE
7 REAP PROGRAM AWARD SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, TUITION ASSIST-
8 ANCE PROGRAM AWARDS OR FEDERAL PELL AWARDS.

9 4. REAP PROGRAM AWARDS SHALL BE GRANTED PURSUANT TO APPROPRIATIONS
10 MADE FOR SUCH PURPOSES AND PURSUANT TO RULES AND REGULATIONS PROMULGATED
11 BY THE CORPORATION.

12 S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.