STATE OF NEW YORK

755--A

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 4, 2017

Introduced by Sens. RITCHIE, BROOKS, KAMINSKY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education -- recommitted to the Committee on Higher Education in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to the volunteer firefighters of New York higher education learning plan

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-i to read as follows:

§ 669-i. Volunteer firefighters of New York higher education learning plan. 1. Eligibility. Undergraduate students who are matriculated in an approved undergraduate program at the state university of New York and are members in good standing in one of New York's volunteer fire companies shall be eligible for an award under this section, provided the applicant: (a) signs a contract with the corporation agreeing to work for a New York volunteer fire company on a full-time basis for five years; and (b) complies with the applicable provisions of this article and all requirements promulgated by the corporation for the administration of the program.

2. Within the amounts appropriated therefor, awards shall be granted to applicants that the corporation has certified are eligible to receive such awards. 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.

4. Recipients shall receive an annual payment for the successful completion of an academic year, equal to up to one hundred percent of the annual tuition charged to state resident students attending an

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

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undergraduate program full-time at 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) a recipient fails to complete their course of studies as agreed to with the corporation or is not a member in good standing in a New York volunteer fire company while obtaining his or her degree; or (b) two years after the completion of their course of studies as agreed to with the corporation it is found that the recipient is not working for a New York volunteer fire company; or (c) a recipient has not worked for a New York volunteer fire company for five of the seven years after the completion of their course of studies as agreed to with the corporation; or (d) a recipient fails to respond to requests by the Fireman's Association of the State of New York for the status of his or her academic or professional progress.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.