STATE OF NEW YORK

3332

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 22, 2021

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

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to excluding certain time periods from the maximum duration of tuition assistance program awards

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Subdivision 2 of section 667 of the education law, as amended by chapter 376 of the laws of 2019, is amended to read as follows:

2. Duration. No undergraduate shall be eligible for more than four academic years of study, or five academic years if the program of study normally requires five years. Students enrolled in a program of remedial study, approved by the commissioner in an institution of higher education and intended to culminate in a degree in undergraduate study shall, for purposes of this section, be considered as enrolled in a program of study normally requiring five years. An undergraduate student enrolled in an eligible two year program of study approved by the commissioner shall be eligible for no more than three academic years of study. An undergraduate student enrolled in an approved two or four-year program of study approved by the commissioner who must transfer to another institution as a result of permanent college closure shall be eligible for up to two additional semesters, or their equivalent, to the extent credits necessary to complete his or her program of study were deemed non-transferable from the closed institution or were deemed not applicable to such student's program of study by the new institution. Any semester, quarter, or term of attendance during which a student receives any award under this article, after the effective date of the former scholar incentive program and prior to academic year nineteen hundred eighty-nine--nineteen hundred ninety, shall be counted toward the maximum term of eligibility for tuition assistance under this section, except that any semester, quarter or term of attendance during which a

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

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student received an award pursuant to section six hundred sixty-six of this subpart shall be counted as one-half of a semester, quarter or term, as the case may be, toward the maximum term of eligibility under this section. Any semester, quarter or term of attendance during which a student received an award pursuant to section six hundred sixty-seven-a of this subpart shall not be counted toward the maximum term of eligibility under this section. **Any semester, quarter or term of attendance during which a student cannot attend school in-person for two or more weeks due to the closure of such educational institution as a result of a declared state disaster emergency shall not be counted toward the maximum term of eligibility under this section.**

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.