STATE OF NEW YORK

8521

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

December 13, 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 expanding eligibility for the tuition assistance program

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 **student** 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. **No graduate student shall be eligible for more than four academic years of study provided, however, that no graduate student shall be eligible for more than one degree program at the master's, first professional or doctorate level. No student shall be eligible for a total of more than the equivalent of eight years of combined undergraduate and graduate study.** 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.

LBD10923-01-1

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 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. **For the purposes of this section, an academic year shall include any optional academic semester, quarter or term and any award made for such optional academic semester, quarter or term shall not reduce the maximum term of eligibility under this section.**

§ 2. Paragraph c of subdivision 3 of section 667 of the education law is relettered paragraph d and a new paragraph c is added to read as follows:

c. Amount. The president shall make awards to graduate students in the following amounts:

(i) For each year of graduate study, assistance shall be provided as computed on the basis of the amount which is the lesser of the following:

(A) Five hundred fifty dollars; or

(B) One hundred percent of the amount of tuition (exclusive of educational fees).

(ii) Except for students as noted in subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, the base amount as determined in subparagraph (i) of this paragraph, shall be reduced in relation to income as follows:

Amount of income	Schedule of reduction of base amount
(A) Less than two thousand dollars	None
(B) Two thousand dollars or more, but not more than twenty thousand dollars	Seven and seven-tenths per centum of the excess over two thousand dollars

(iii) For students who have been granted exclusion of parental income and were single with no dependent for income tax purposes during the tax year next preceding the academic year for which application is made, the base amount as determined in subparagraph (i) of this paragraph, shall be reduced in relation to income as follows:

Amount of income	Schedule of reduction of base amount
(A) Less than one thousand dollars	None
(B) One thousand dollars or more, but not more than five thousand six hundred sixty-six dollars	Twenty-six per centum of the excess over one thousand dollars

(iv) If the amount of reduction is not a whole dollar, it shall be reduced to the next lowest whole dollar.

(v) The award shall be the net amount of the base amount determined pursuant to subparagraph (ii) or (iii) of this paragraph but the award shall not be reduced below seventy-five dollars. If the income exceeds the maximum amount of income allowable under subparagraph (ii) or (iii) of this paragraph, no award shall be made.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the first of July next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.