STATE OF NEW YORK

1385

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 11, 2021

Introduced by Sen. BROOKS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to the part-time tuition assistance program

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

Section 1. Section 667-c of the education law, as added by section 1 of part N of chapter 58 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as follows:

§ 667-c. Part-time tuition assistance program awards. 1. Notwithstanding any law, rule or regulation to the contrary, the president of the higher education services corporation is authorized to make tuition assistance program awards to [~~part-time~~] students [~~enrolled at the state university, a community college, the city university of New York, and a non-profit college or university incorporated by the regents or by the legislature who meet all requirements for tuition assistance program awards except for the students' part-time attendance~~] **who attend a New York state public institution of higher education or a non-profit college or university incorporated by the regents or by the legislature on a part-time basis**.

2. [~~For purposes of this section, a part-time student is one who:~~

~~a. enrolled as a first-time freshman during the two thousand six--two thousand seven academic year or thereafter at a college or university within the state university, including a statutory or contract college, a community college established pursuant to article one hundred twenty-six of this chapter, the city university of New York, or a non-profit college or university incorporated by the regents or by the legislature;~~

~~b. has earned at least twelve credits in each of two consecutive semesters at one of the institutions named in paragraph a of this subdivision by the time of the awards;~~

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

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~~c. is enrolled for at least six but less than twelve semester hours, or the equivalent, per semester in an approved undergraduate degree program; and~~

~~d. has a cumulative grade-point average of at least 2.00~~] **To be eligible, an applicant must meet the qualifications of subdivisions three and five of section six hundred sixty-one of this article, enrolled in at least six but less than twelve credit hours at a New York state public institution of higher learning or a non-profit college or university incorporated by the regents or by the legislature in the two thousand twenty-one--two thousand twenty-two academic year, or thereafter, and maintain a grade point average of at least 2.0**.

3. a. For part-time students defined in this section, the award shall be calculated as provided in section six hundred sixty-seven of this article and shall be in an amount equal to the enrollment factor percent of the award the student would have been eligible for if the student were enrolled full-time. The enrollment factor percent is the percentage obtained by dividing the number of credits the student is enrolled in, as certified by the school, by the number of credits required for full-time study in the semester, quarter or term as defined by the commissioner.

b. Any semester, quarter or term of attendance during which a student receives an award pursuant to this section shall be counted as the enrollment factor percent of a semester, quarter or term toward the maximum term of eligibility for tuition assistance awards pursuant to section six hundred sixty-seven of this article. [~~The total period of study for which payment may be made shall not exceed the equivalent of the maximum period authorized for that award.~~]

c. The total amount of funds awarded shall not exceed the total amount available to the traditional full-time student.

4. Part-time students defined in this section will create, in agreement with the college or university, an education plan allowing the student to complete his or her associate's degree program in as much as four and one-half years or his or her bachelor's degree program in as much as nine years. The education plan will establish a schedule requiring the student to carry a minimum of six credits each semester and a minimum of twelve credits each year. The student would be required to maintain continued attendance (excluding summer sessions) for the period of the agreement. The college or university is authorized to grant a leave period for the duration of a semester or its equivalent at its discretion in the event of medical conditions, family responsibilities or financial emergencies.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.