STATE OF NEW YORK

1397

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 17, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. BUTTENSCHON, CRUZ, DICKENS, JACKSON, JONES, SANTABARBARA, SAYEGH, SIMPSON, STERN, STIRPE, WILLIAMS, WOERNER -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education

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 undergraduate program full-time at the state university of New York, or actual tuition charged, whichever is less.

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

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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.