STATE OF NEW YORK

8404

IN SENATE

January 26, 2024

Introduced by Sen. STAVISKY -- 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 graduate tuition assistance program awards

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

Section 1. Subdivision 6 of section 661 of the education law is amended by adding a new paragraph d to read as follows:

d. No provision of this article shall be deemed to restrict eligible graduate students from receiving awards pursuant to section six hundred sixty-seven-b of this part.

§ 2. The opening paragraph of subparagraph 1 of paragraph b of subdivision 3 of section 663 of the education law, as amended by section 5 of part J of chapter 58 of the laws of 2011, is amended to read as follows:

The applicant is a student who was married on or before December thirty-first of the calendar year prior to the beginning of the academic year for which application is made or is an undergraduate **or graduate** student who has reached the age of twenty-two on or before June thirtieth prior to the academic year for which application is made and who, during the calendar year next preceding the semester, quarter or term of attendance for which application is made and at all times subsequent thereto up to and including the entire period for which application is made:

§ 3. Paragraph d of subdivision 3 of section 663 of the education law, as amended by section 6 of part J of chapter 58 of the laws of 2011, is amended to read as follows:

d. Any undergraduate **or graduate** student who was allowed to exclude parental income pursuant to the provisions of subdivision three of section six hundred three of this chapter as they existed prior to July first, nineteen hundred seventy-four may continue to exclude such income for so long as he continues to comply with such provisions.

§ 4. The education law is amended by adding a new section 667-b to read as follows:

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

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§ 667-b. Graduate tuition assistance program awards. 1. Recipient qualifications. Notwithstanding any other provision of law or regulation to the contrary, graduate tuition assistance program awards shall be available for all students who are enrolled in approved post-baccalaureate programs leading to a graduate, first professional, or doctoral degree in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, education or a licensed healthcare profession, and who demonstrate the ability to complete such courses, in accordance with standards established by the commissioner, provided, however, that no award shall exceed one hundred percent of the amount of tuition charged.

2. Duration. No graduate student shall be eligible for awards for more than two years of post-baccalaureate studies. A student may not receive awards under this section at the same time they receive awards under section six hundred sixty-seven of this subpart, nor while they are enrolled as an undergraduate student.

3. Graduate tuition assistance awards. The president shall make awards to graduate students enrolled in approved programs at degree granting institutions in the following amounts:

(a) for each year of graduate studies, an eligible graduate student may receive up to five thousand six hundred sixty-five dollars or the cost of their tuition, whichever is less; and

(b) the base amount as determined under paragraph (a) of this subdivision shall be reduced in relation to income as follows:

Amount of income	Schedule of reduction of base amount
(i) Less than seven thousand dollars	None
(ii) Seven thousand dollars or more, but less than eleven thousand dollars	Seven per centum of excess over seven thousand dollars
(iii) Eleven thousand dollars or more, but less than eighteen thousand dollars	Two hundred eighty dollars plus ten per centum of excess over eleven thousand dollars
(iv) Eighteen thousand dollars or more, but not more than eighty thousand dollars	Nine hundred eighty dollars plus twelve per centum of excess over eighteen thousand dollars.

(c) if the amount of reduction is not a whole dollar, it shall be reduced to the next lowest whole dollar; and

(d) the minimum award pursuant to this section shall be one thousand dollars.

4. Restrictions. In no event shall any award:

(a) exceed the amount of annual tuition charged to such student after federal, state, or other education aid is received or receivable by such student during the school year for which such award is applicable, that in the judgement of the president would duplicate the purposes of this award. The president shall promulgate rules and regulations to distinguish between duplicative aid, and non-duplicative aid such as research and fellowship funding;

(b) be made when income exceeds the maximum income set forth in this section; or

(c) be made for less than one thousand dollars, except where such award is reduced pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subdivision.

§ 5. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.