STATE OF NEW YORK

3298

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 24, 2025

Introduced by Sen. WEIK -- 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 establishing the New York nurse expansion program

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. New York nurse expansion program. 1. Undergraduate students who are matriculated in an approved undergraduate program leading to a career in nursing at a New York state public or private degree granting institution of higher education are eligible for the New York nurse expansion program, provided the applicant: (a) graduates from a high school located in New York state during or after the two thousand twenty-five--two thousand twenty-six school year; (b) graduates within the top thirty-three percent of their high school class; (c) enrolls in full-time study each term beginning in the fall term after their high school graduation in an approved undergraduate nursing program, as defined by the corporation, at a New York state institution of higher education; (d) signs a contract with the corporation agreeing that their award will be converted to a student loan in the event the student fails to comply with the terms of this program as set forth in subdivision four of this section; and (e) complies with the applicable provisions of this article and all requirements promulgated by the corporation for the administration of the program.

2. Awards shall be granted beginning with the two thousand twenty-six--two thousand twenty-seven academic year and thereafter to applicants at New York state public or private degree granting institutions of higher education that the corporation has determined are eligible to receive such awards. The corporation shall grant such awards in an amount equal to the amount of undergraduate tuition for residents of New York state

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

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charged by the state university of New York or actual tuition charged, whichever is less; provided, however, (a) a student who receives educational grants and/or scholarships that cover the student's full cost of attendance shall not be eligible for an award under this program; (b) for a student who receives educational grants and/or scholarships that cover less than the student's full cost of attendance, such grants and/or scholarships shall not be deemed duplicative of this program and may be held concurrently with an award under this program, provided that the combined benefits do not exceed the student's full cost of attendance; and (c) an award under this program shall be applied to tuition after the application of all other educational grants and scholarships limited to tuition and shall be reduced in an amount equal to such educational grants and/or scholarships. Upon notification of an award under this program, the institution shall defer the amount of tuition equal to the award. No award shall be final until the recipient's successful completion of a term has been certified by the institution.

3. An eligible recipient shall not receive an award for more than four academic years of full-time undergraduate study or five academic years if the program of study normally requires five years, excluding any allowable interruption of study.

4. 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 an approved undergraduate nursing program; or (b) upon completion of such undergraduate degree program a recipient fails to either (i) complete five years of continuous full-time employment in the field of nursing related to their studies with a public or private entity located within New York state, or (ii) maintain residency in New York state for such period of employment; or (c) a recipient fails to respond to requests by the corporation for the status of their academic or professional progress. The terms and conditions of this subdivision shall be deferred for individuals who graduate with a degree in an approved undergraduate program and enroll on at least a half-time basis in a graduate or higher degree program or other professional licensure degree program until they are conferred a degree, and shall also be deferred for any interruption in undergraduate study or employment as established by the rules and regulations of the corporation. Any obligation to comply with such provisions as outlined in this section shall be cancelled upon the death of the recipient. Notwithstanding any provisions of this subdivision to the contrary, the corporation is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to provide for the waiver or suspension of any financial obligation which would involve extreme hardship.

5. The corporation is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations, and may promulgate emergency regulations, necessary for the implementation of the provisions of this section, including, but not limited to, the rate of interest charged for repayment of the student loan and the criteria for distributing the awards.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth 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 date.