

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 2127

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 2, 2008

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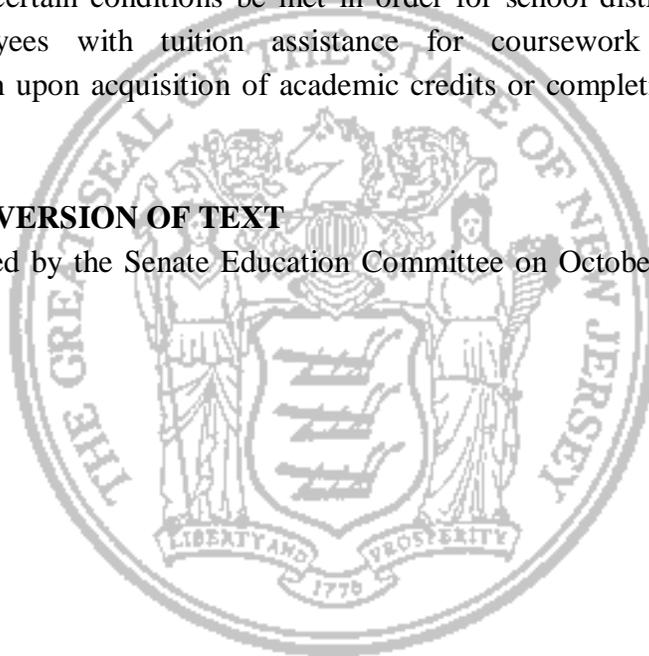
Senators Bateman and Baroni

SYNOPSIS

Requires certain conditions be met in order for school districts to provide their employees with tuition assistance for coursework or additional compensation upon acquisition of academic credits or completion of a degree program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Education Committee on October 2, 2008, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/17/2008)

1 AN ACT concerning certain benefits for school district employees
2 and supplementing chapter 6 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. In order for a board of education to provide to an employee
9 tuition assistance for coursework taken at an institution of higher
10 education or additional compensation upon the acquisition of
11 additional academic credits or completion of a degree program at an
12 institution of higher education:

13 a. The institution shall be a duly authorized institution of higher
14 education as defined in section 3 of P.L.1986, c.87 (C.18A:3-15.3);

15 b. The employee shall obtain approval from the superintendent
16 of schools prior to enrollment in any course for which tuition
17 assistance is sought. Prior approval from the superintendent shall
18 also be required for the payment of any additional compensation
19 upon acquisition of additional academic credits or completion of a
20 degree program. In the case of a superintendent, the approvals shall
21 be obtained from the board of education;

22 c. The employee shall attain a grade at or above a 3.00 in each
23 course for which tuition assistance is sought, when a 4.00 equals an
24 A grade;

25 d. The tuition assistance per credit shall equal an amount no
26 greater than the current average cost per credit at Rutgers, The State
27 University;

28 e. The tuition assistance shall be provided at the end of the
29 course and upon receipt by the district of the course grade and
30 confirmation of the payment of tuition, provided that the employee
31 is an employee of the school district at the time the tuition
32 assistance is provided. If the employee leaves the district within
33 one year of the payment of the tuition assistance, the employee shall
34 be responsible for reimbursing the district for the amount of the
35 tuition assistance; and

36 f. The tuition assistance or additional compensation shall be
37 provided only for a course or degree related to the employee's
38 current ¹position¹ or ¹, at the discretion of the board of education on
39 a case-by-case basis, the employee's¹ future job responsibilities.

40
41 ¹2. Nothing in this act shall be construed to limit the authority of
42 a board of education to establish more stringent requirements for
43 the provision of tuition assistance or additional compensation than

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SED committee amendments adopted October 2, 2008.

1 the requirements set forth in section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
2 before the Legislature as this bill).¹

3

4 ¹~~[2.]~~ 3. This act shall take effect on July 1 of the school year
5 next following the date of enactment, except that this act shall not
6 be deemed to impair an obligation set forth in a collective
7 negotiations agreement or an individual contract of employment in
8 effect on the effective date.