

[Second Reprint]

SENATE, No. 2127

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 2, 2008

Sponsored by:

Senator RICHARD J. CODEY

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District 15 (Mercer)

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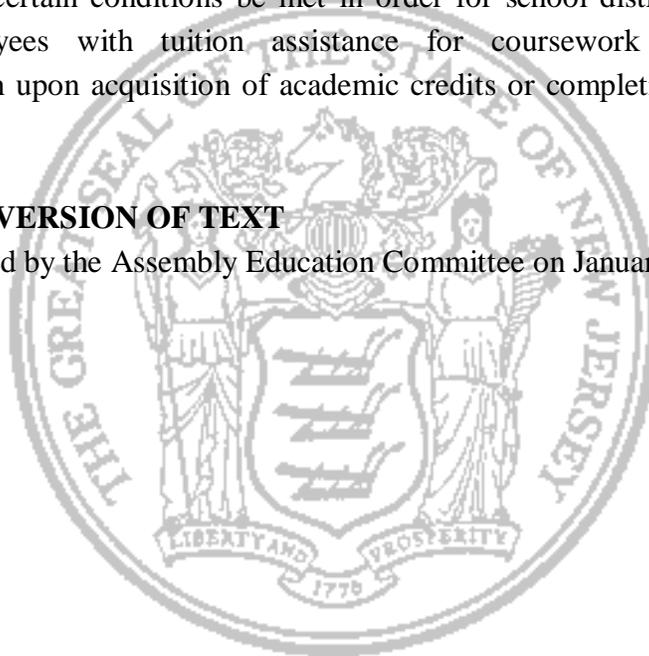
Senators Bateman and Baroni

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 Assembly Education Committee on January 4, 2010, 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. ²**[**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 event that the superintendent denies the
21 approval, the employee may appeal the denial to the board of
22 education².

23 In the case of a superintendent, the ²**[**approvals**]** approval² shall
24 be obtained from the board of education; ²and²

25 c. ²**[**The employee shall attain a grade at or above a 3.00 in each
26 course for which tuition assistance is sought, when a 4.00 equals an
27 A grade;

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

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

39 f. ²**]**² The tuition assistance or additional compensation shall be
40 provided only for a course or degree related to the employee's
41 current ²**[**position¹**]**² or ²**[**¹, at the discretion of the board of
42 education on a case-by-case basis, the employee's¹ **]**² future job
43 responsibilities.

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.

²Assembly AED committee amendments adopted January 4, 2010.

1 '2. Nothing in this act shall be construed to limit the authority of
2 a board of education to establish more stringent requirements for
3 the provision of tuition assistance or additional compensation than
4 the requirements set forth in section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
5 before the Legislature as this bill).'¹

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