6A:33-4.2 Exit criteria for Targeted Schools with low performing student subgroup(s)

(a) A Targeted School has the opportunity to be reviewed based upon the exit criteria every three years and when the Department identifies a new cohort of schools.

(b) A school identified as a Targeted School pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:33-2.3(a1) shall be eligible to no longer be identified as such if:
   1. The school does not have a student subgroup with a summative score at or below the fifth percentile for Title I schools; and
   2. The school demonstrates, for each student subgroup for which the school was identified as a Targeted School, improvement on an accountability indicator as compared to the subgroup’s performance at the time of identification as a Targeted School. In addition to the applicable accountability indicators, the Department will also consider the following to be indicative of notable subgroup improvement:
      i. Increase(s) in the percentages of students with scores on Statewide assessments that approached, met, or exceeded expectations;
      ii. Subgroup academic progress scores that met or exceeded the annual target;
      iii. Subgroup proficiency rates that met annual targets; and
      iv. Subgroup rates for chronic absenteeism that met the average for the respective school configuration.

(c) The Commissioner shall notify a school identified as a Targeted School pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:33-2.3(a1) by January 31 as to whether it has met the criteria at (b) above and is eligible to cease to be identified as a Targeted School effective June 30.

(d) If a school identified as a Targeted School pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:33-2.3(a1) has met some, but not all, of the criteria at (b) above, the Department may place the school on a one-year probation. After the one-year probation, the Targeted School shall be eligible to cease to be identified as a Targeted School if all of the criteria at (b) above has been met. If all of the criteria at (b) above are not met after the one-year probation, the school shall remain as a Targeted School.

(e) A Title I school identified as a Targeted School pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:33-2.3(a1) for three or more consecutive years shall be designated as a Comprehensive School.

6A:33-4.3 Exit criteria for Targeted Schools with consistently underperforming student subgroup(s)

(a) A school identified as a Targeted School pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:33-2.3(a2) has the opportunity to be reviewed based upon the exit criteria every year.

(b) A school identified as a Targeted School pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:33-2.3(a2) shall be eligible to no longer be identified as such if the Department does not identify the school as having a consistently underperforming student subgroup(s) using the criteria at N.J.A.C. 6A:33-2.3(a2).

(c) The Commissioner shall notify a school identified as a Targeted School pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:33-2.3(a2) by January 31 as to whether it has met the criteria listed at (b) above and is eligible to cease to be identified as a Targeted School effective June 30.

SUBCHAPTER [4.] 5. APPEAL PROCESS

6A:33-[4.1][S.1] Presentation of countervailing evidence

(a) A [Priority] Comprehensive or [Focus] Targeted School and/or its school district may dispute [either] a Departmental finding or intervention made pursuant to this chapter by initiating a contested case before the Commissioner pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:3, Controversies and Disputes.

(b) The Department shall not be required to suspend its activities, including the disputed intervention(s), while evidence is being collected or presented by the school or school district, or while the Department considers and responds to the evidence.

HIGHER EDUCATION

HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY

Grant and Scholarship Programs

Community College Opportunity Grant Program


Authorized By: Higher Education Student Assistance Authority, Christy Van Horn, Chairperson.


Calendar Reference: See Summary below for explanation of exception to calendar requirement.

Proposal Number: PRN 2021-050

Submit written comments by August 6, 2021, to:

Marnie B. Grodman, Esquire
Administrative Practice Officer
Higher Education Student Assistance Authority
PO Box 545
Trenton, NJ 08625-0545

Email: Regulations@hesaa.org

The agency proposal follows:

Summary

On February 26, 2021, Governor Murphy signed the Community College Opportunity Grant (CCOG) Program Act, P.L. 2021, c. 26 (the Act) into law. The purpose of the CCOG Program is to provide financial aid grants to eligible county college students to cover the costs of tuition and approved educational fees that are not already covered by any other State, Federal, and institutional need-based grants or merit scholarships, and also to provide county colleges with student success incentive funding for outreach and student success initiatives. Section 6 of the Act authorizes the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (the Authority) to adopt the rules and regulations necessary to implement Section 1 through 4, the CCOG student grant provisions of the Act, and separately authorizes the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education to adopt the rules and regulations necessary to implement Section 5, the student success incentive provisions of the Act.

The proposed new rules govern the policy, administration, and procedures for the CCOG student grant provisions of the Act and are summarized below.

The proposed new subchapter heading establishes the name of the program, for which the proposed new rules will be promulgated, as the Community College Opportunity Grant Program (CCOG).

Pursuant to the Act, proposed new N.J.A.C. 9A:9-9.1 provides that the purpose of the proposed new subchapter is to provide policies and procedures for students and institutions to participate in CCOG and that the purpose of the CCOG is to increase the total number of students obtaining a high-quality postsecondary education credential Statewide by removing financial barriers to attendance.

Proposed new N.J.A.C. 9A:9-9.2 provides the definitions for the words and terms, as used within this subchapter, which include “AGI,” “approved educational fees,” “Authority,” “CCOG,” “county college,” “in-county tuition,” “minimum level of academic success,” and “three plus one degree program.”

Additionally, proposed new N.J.A.C. 9A:9-9.2 defines a “bridge year Bridge Year Pilot Program,” under which each school district with a high school shall offer students in the graduating class of 2021 and the graduating class of 2022 the opportunity to pursue a bridge year during the year immediately following their senior year of high school. P.L. 2020, c. 41, section 2, provides that students pursuing a bridge year are eligible for financial aid provided through the CCOG Program.

Proposed new N.J.A.C. 9A:9-9.3 defines the existing general provisions for the Tuition Aid Grant and Garden State Scholarship Programs that are also in effect for the CCOG. These proposed new rules pertain to undergraduate enrollment and eligible institutions, residency,
noncitizens and resident aliens, eligibility and repayments, dependent/independent students, verification of family income, award adjustments, refunds and collections, student’s obligation, check endorsements, and accounting and auditing standards.

Proposed new N.J.A.C. 9A:9-9.4 establishes the eligibility requirements a student must meet in order to qualify for a CCOG award.

Pursuant to subparagraph 3.a(6) of the Act, proposed new N.J.A.C. 9A:9-9.4(a)1 requires students to apply for all other available forms of State, Federal, and institutional need-based aid and merit scholarships to determine each student’s unmet need.

To administer subparagraph 3.a(2) of the Act, proposed new N.J.A.C. 9A:9-9.4(a)2 requires students to enroll for a minimum of six credits per semester.

Pursuant to subparagraph 3.a(8) of the Act, proposed new N.J.A.C. 9A:9-9.4(a)3 requires students to achieve a minimum level of academic success.

To administer subparagraphs 3.a(4) and (5) of the Act, proposed new N.J.A.C. 9A:9-9.4(a)4 limits CCOG awards to students whose families have an adjusted gross income (AGI) of no less than $0 and no more than $65,000.

Proposed new N.J.A.C. 9A:9-9.4(b) ensures that the county colleges do not impose any additional eligibility requirements on students for them to be eligible for a CCOG award pursuant to subsection 3.a of the Act.

In accordance with P.L. 2020, c. 41, which establishes a three-year “Bridge Year Pilot Program,” proposed new N.J.A.C. 9A:9-9.4(c) provides that, subject to appropriations, students pursuing a bridge year are eligible for CCOG if the student meets all other eligibility requirements.

Proposed new N.J.A.C. 9A:9-9.5 provides the requirements for colleges to verify a student’s eligibility for the CCOG to ensure CCOG awards are only awarded to students who meet the eligibility requirements at proposed N.J.A.C. 9A:9-9. Proposed new subsection (a) provides that the college must have evidence that students have registered for a minimum of six credits per semester and that students have achieved the minimum level of academic success.

Proposed new subsection (b) requires colleges to share any material findings or audit exceptions with the Authority.

Pursuant to sections 2, 3.a(3)(b), and 4.b. of the Act, proposed new N.J.A.C. 9A:9-9.6 sets the CCOG award at an amount up to the combined cost of in-county tuition and approved educational fees for up to 18 credit hours per semester. Pursuant to subsection 4.c of the Act, the proposed new section also specifies that the Authority shall annually establish a maximum CCOG award amount for students at each institution based on available appropriations and provides that the maximum CCOG award amount for individual students at each county college shall not increase by more than three percent over the prior year.

Pursuant to section 2 of the Act, proposed new N.J.A.C. 9A:9-9.6(a) requires the full amount of State, Federal, institutional, and community grants and scholarship aid received by the student for tuition and approved educational fees to be applied to the tuition and approved educational fee charges first, to reduce the amount of the CCOG award.

Pursuant to subsection 4.b of the Act, where an eligible student has enrolled in at least six credits, but less than 12 credits, the CCOG award shall be prorated from the full-time approved tuition and approved educational fees based on the number of credits for which that student is enrolled. Proposed new N.J.A.C. 9A:9-9.6(b) sets forth the prorated CCOG award amounts for students enrolled less than full-time. To align the prorated amount with the calculation of part-time Tuition Aid Grant awards for county college students, paragraph (b) provides that students enrolled for nine to 11 credits shall be eligible for 75 percent of the full CCOG award and paragraph (b)2 provides that students enrolled for six to eight credits shall be eligible for 50 percent of the full CCOG award.

Pursuant to subparagraph 3.a(3)(b) of the Act, proposed new N.J.A.C. 9A:9-9.6(c) provides that a student enrolled at an out-of-county college shall be eligible for a CCOG award calculated based on the in-district rate of tuition and approved educational fees for the county college at which the student is enrolled, provided that the amount of a grant provided to a student under this subsection does not exceed the amount of tuition and approved educational fees actually charged to the student.

Pursuant to subsection 3.c of the Act, proposed new N.J.A.C. 9A:9-9.7 establishes five as the maximum number of semester award payments that a student may receive, unless the student is enrolled in a three plus one degree program, or in a program regularly requiring at least six semesters for completion, in which case, the maximum number of semester payment awards that a student may receive is six. In order to administer subsection 3.c of the Act, the proposed new section further provides that the semesters for which a student is enrolled in is at least six credits, but less than 12 credits, shall be counted as one-half of one semester of eligibility, and that CCOG payments are made for fall and spring semesters only.

Pursuant to subsection 3.f of the Act, proposed new N.J.A.C. 9A:9-9.8 requires the college that the student is attending notify the student of eligibility for CCOG and the amount of the student’s CCOG award.

Pursuant to subsection 3.g of the Act, proposed new N.J.A.C. 9A:9-9.9 sets forth the appeals process for CCOG. Students, families, and institutions are provided 60 days to file an appeal with the Authority’s Director of Grants and Scholarships if they feel that the application of the policies results in an unfair determination of eligibility. The proposed new rule further requires the Director of Grants and Scholarship to respond with the Authority’s final determination of the appeal within 30 days of the Authority’s receipt of the appeal.

As the Authority has provided a 60-day comment period on this notice of proposal, this notice is excepted from the rulemaking calendar requirement, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:30-3.3(a)5.

Social Impact

The proposed new rules govern the administration of the Community College Opportunity Grant Program. They establish criteria for student eligibility, award amounts, notification of eligibility, and appeals. The proposed new rules will have a positive impact on students by removing financial barriers to attendance. CCOG assures students whose families have an AGI between $0 and $65,000 that a significant portion of the tuition and fees at county college will be covered by financial aid grants, not loans. Removing this financial barrier for students will promote access to postsecondary education and increase college enrollment, which will enable more of the State’s residents to acquire the skills and credentials they need to succeed as productive members of both society and the workforce, while helping New Jersey meet its goal of 65 percent of the working-age adult population attaining a degree or certificate by 2025.

Economic Impact

The proposed new rules do not represent new expenditures for the State. The CCOG program has been included in the State appropriations since Fiscal Year 2019. In Academic Year 2019-2020, $19.66 million was expended to provide CCOG awards to eligible students. This amount assisted 10,247 individual students. The proposed new rules set forth eligibility and verification procedures to ensure that the appropriated funds are being applied properly. It is anticipated that the proposed new rules will have a positive effect on the State’s economy by enabling more of the State’s citizens to acquire an education beyond the secondary level, as a well-trained and educated population is vital to New Jersey’s efforts to attract and retain businesses. It is also anticipated that the proposed new rules will have a positive effect on the State’s economy by reducing the aggregate amount of student loan debt incurred by individuals pursuing postsecondary education.

Federal Standards Statement

A Federal standards analysis is not required since the proposed new rules are not subject to any Federal requirements or standards.

Jobs Impact

The proposed new rules will not result in the loss or generation of jobs. The proposed new rules provide the criteria for eligibility for a student grant. It is anticipated that the proposed new rules will encourage students to enroll in college, thereby leading to higher paying jobs.

Agriculture Industry Impact

The proposed new rules will have no impact on the agriculture industry, as they pertain to student financial aid and not agriculture.

Regulatory Flexibility Statement

A regulatory flexibility analysis is not required because the proposed new rules do not impose reporting, recordkeeping, or other compliance
requirements on small businesses as defined by the Regulatory Flexibility Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-16 et seq. The Authority does not anticipate that any county college participating in CCOG would be covered by the definition of a small business because these entities have more than 100 full-time employees. Additionally, students receiving CCOG awards are not covered by the definition because they are individuals, not businesses.

Housing Affordability Impact Analysis

The proposed new rules will have an insignificant impact on the affordability of housing in New Jersey. There is an extreme unlikelihood that the proposed new rules will evoke a change in the average costs associated with housing. The proposed new rules affect eligibility for financial aid for higher education, which has no impact on the cost of housing.

Smart Growth Development Impact Analysis

The proposed new rules will have an insignificant impact on smart growth and there is an extreme unlikelihood that the proposed new rules would evoke a change in housing production in Planning Areas 1 or 2, or within designated centers, under the State Development and Redevelopment Plan in New Jersey. The proposed new rules affect eligibility for State financial aid for higher education, which has no impact on housing production.

Racial and Ethnic Community Criminal Justice and Public Safety Impact

The Authority has evaluated this rulemaking and determined that it will not have an impact on pretrial detention, sentencing, probation, or parole policies concerning adults and juveniles in the State. Accordingly, no further analysis is required.

Full text of the proposed new rules follows (additions indicated in boldface thus; deletion indicated in brackets [thus]):

SUBCHAPTER 9. [RESERVED] COMMUNITY COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY GRANT PROGRAM (CCOG)

9A:9-9.1 Purpose and scope

The rules established by this subchapter provide the policies and procedures for participation in the Community College Opportunity Grant (CCOG) Program administered by the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority. These grants shall be awarded to eligible students who are enrolled for a minimum of six credits per semester at a New Jersey county college and who have not already earned a post-secondary degree. The purpose of these grants is to increase the total number of students obtaining a high-quality postsecondary education credential Statewide by removing the financial barriers to attendance.

9A:9-9.2 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

“AGI” means adjusted gross income reported to the United States Internal Revenue Service on an income tax return.

1. For a dependent student, AGI refers to parental AGI, as reported on the financial aid application.

2. For an independent student, AGI refers to the AGI reported on the financial aid application for the student and, if applicable, the student’s spouse.

“Approved educational fees” means general education fees, registration fees, facility fees, technology fees, laboratory fees, student service and activity fees, and program and course fees, including fees associated with coursework in nursing, culinary, and other career and technical education programs, as determined annually by the Authority in consultation with the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education, subject to the limit of funds appropriated or otherwise made available for the program, and published on the Authority’s website.

“Authority” means the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:71A-3.

“Bridge year student” means a student in the graduating class of 2021 or the graduating class of 2022, who has met all applicable New Jersey high school graduation requirements by the end of the senior year of high school and defers graduation from high school to pursue a bridge year pursuant to P.L. 2020, c. 41.

“CCOG” means the Community College Opportunity Grant established pursuant to P.L. 2021, c. 26.

“County college” means a New Jersey county college established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:64A-1 et seq.

“In-county tuition” means the amount of tuition charged to students for whom an institution is the county college that serves the student’s county of residence.

“Minimum level of academic success” means either:
1. That a student meets the standards for academic performance and satisfactory academic progress that an institution adopts to determine eligibility for Federal student aid programs under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, and its implementing regulations and rules; or
2. To provide an opportunity for returning students to re-engage in postsecondary education, that a student earns a minimum grade point average of 1.8 in the semester immediately prior to receiving an award.

“Three plus one degree program” means a baccalaureate degree program created pursuant to section 1 of P.L. 2018, c. 144.

9A:9-9.3 General provisions

General provisions for the Tuition Aid Grant and Garden State Scholarship Programs that pertain to undergraduate enrollment and eligible institutions set forth at N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.1, Underground enrollment and eligible institutions, 2.2, Residency, 2.3, Noncitizens and resident aliens, 2.4, Eligibility and repayments, 2.5, Dependent/independent student, 2.7, Verification of family income, 2.8, Renewal eligibility and filing, 2.9, Award adjustments, refunds, and collections, 2.13, Student’s obligation, 2.14, Check endorsements, and 2.16, Accounting and auditing standards, shall be in effect for CCOG.

9A:9-9.4 Eligibility requirements

(a) In order to qualify for a CCOG award, a student must meet the following eligibility requirements:
1. Apply for all other available forms of State, Federal, and institutional need-based grants and merit scholarships by annually filing a financial aid application, as approved by the Authority, within established State deadlines in order to apply for all other available forms of Federal and State need-based grants and merit scholarships and satisfying all requirements of the application process within established State deadlines;
2. Enroll in a county college for a minimum of six credits per semester;
3. Achieve the minimum level of academic success; and
4. Have an AGI of no less than $0.00 and no more than $65,000.
(b) County colleges participating in the CCOG program may not impose additional eligibility requirements, other than the requirements set forth in this section, for students to receive CCOG awards.
(c) Notwithstanding any requirements to be enrolled in a course of study or a curriculum leading to a degree or certificate, and subject to the availability of funds in the annual appropriations act, a student pursuing a bridge year shall be eligible for a financial aid grant pursuant to CCOG, if the student meets all other applicable eligibility requirements.

9A:9-9.5 Verification of enrollment and academic performance

(a) Before payment may be made to an eligible student, the institution shall have satisfactory evidence that the student is eligible for a State grant and/or scholarship assistance, that the student has registered for a minimum of six credits per semester, and that the student has achieved the minimum level of academic success.
(b) The institution shall share with the Authority any material findings or audit exceptions related to the determination of academic progress at any time they are revealed in the course of an audit or program review.

(CITE 53 N.J.R. 996) NEW JERSEY REGISTER, MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2021
9A:9-9.6 Amount of grant award
(a) A CCOG award shall cover up to the combined cost of in-county tuition and approved educational fees for up to 18 credit hours per semester for the county college at which the student is enrolled. The maximum CCOG award amount for individual students at each county college shall be calculated annually by the Authority subject to available appropriations. The maximum CCOG award amount for individual students at each county college shall not increase by more than three percent over the prior year.

1. The full amount of State, Federal, and institutional grants and scholarship aid received by the student for the purpose of paying tuition and approved educational fees shall be applied to the tuition and approved educational fee charges first, to reduce the amount of the CCOG award.

2. A student enrolled in fewer than 12 credits per semester shall be eligible for a maximum CCOG award amount that is prorated from the full-time CCOG award amount, based on the number of credits for which that student is enrolled.
   i. Students enrolled for nine to 11 credits shall be eligible for 75 percent of the full CCOG award; and
   ii. Students enrolled for six to eight credits shall be eligible for 50 percent of the full CCOG award.

3. A student enrolled at an out-of-county college shall be eligible for a CCOG award calculated based on the in-district rate of tuition and approved educational fees for the county college at which the student is enrolled, provided that the amount of a grant provided to a student under this paragraph does not exceed the amount of tuition and approved educational fees actually charged to the student.

9A:9-9.7 Payments
(a) The maximum number of semester award payments that a student may receive is five, unless the student is enrolled in a three plus one degree program, or in a program regularly requiring at least six semesters for completion, in which case, the maximum number of semester payment awards that a student may receive is six.

(b) Semesters for which a student is enrolled in at least six credits, but less than 12 credits, shall be counted as one-half of one semester of eligibility.

(c) CCOG payments are made for fall and spring semesters only.

9A:9-9.8 Student notification
The New Jersey county college the student attends shall notify the student of eligibility. Such notification by the county college shall include the amount of the CCOG award.

9A:9-9.9 Appeals
If, for any reason, a student, his or her family, or an institution feels that the application of these policies results in an unfair determination of eligibility, an appeal shall be filed with the Authority within 60 days of initial notification of eligibility or ineligibility for the CCOG award. All appeals shall be in writing, and, if appropriate, shall include any supporting documentation. Appeals shall be addressed to the Director of Grants and Scholarships, Higher Education Student Assistance Authority, PO Box 540, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0540 or submitted electronically, and shall contain the student’s full name, NJHESAA ID number, college of attendance, and a description of the basis for the appeal. The Director of Grants and Scholarship shall respond in writing with the Authority’s final determination of the appeal within 30 days of the Authority’s receipt of the appeal.

9A:9-9.6 Amount of grant award
(a) A CCOG award shall cover up to the combined cost of in-county tuition and approved educational fees for up to 18 credit hours per semester for the county college at which the student is enrolled. The maximum CCOG award amount for individual students at each county college shall be calculated annually by the Authority subject to available appropriations. The maximum CCOG award amount for individual students at each county college shall not increase by more than three percent over the prior year.

1. The full amount of State, Federal, and institutional grants and scholarship aid received by the student for the purpose of paying tuition and approved educational fees shall be applied to the tuition and approved educational fee charges first, to reduce the amount of the CCOG award.

2. A student enrolled in fewer than 12 credits per semester shall be eligible for a maximum CCOG award amount that is prorated from the full-time CCOG award amount, based on the number of credits for which that student is enrolled.
   i. Students enrolled for nine to 11 credits shall be eligible for 75 percent of the full CCOG award; and
   ii. Students enrolled for six to eight credits shall be eligible for 50 percent of the full CCOG award.

3. A student enrolled at an out-of-county college shall be eligible for a CCOG award calculated based on the in-district rate of tuition and approved educational fees for the county college at which the student is enrolled, provided that the amount of a grant provided to a student under this paragraph does not exceed the amount of tuition and approved educational fees actually charged to the student.

9A:9-9.7 Payments
(a) The maximum number of semester award payments that a student may receive is five, unless the student is enrolled in a three plus one degree program, or in a program regularly requiring at least six semesters for completion, in which case, the maximum number of semester payment awards that a student may receive is six.

(b) Semesters for which a student is enrolled in at least six credits, but less than 12 credits, shall be counted as one-half of one semester of eligibility.

(c) CCOG payments are made for fall and spring semesters only.

9A:9-9.8 Student notification
The New Jersey county college the student attends shall notify the student of eligibility. Such notification by the county college shall include the amount of the CCOG award.

9A:9-9.9 Appeals
If, for any reason, a student, his or her family, or an institution feels that the application of these policies results in an unfair determination of eligibility, an appeal shall be filed with the Authority within 60 days of initial notification of eligibility or ineligibility for the CCOG award. All appeals shall be in writing, and, if appropriate, shall include any supporting documentation. Appeals shall be addressed to the Director of Grants and Scholarships, Higher Education Student Assistance Authority, PO Box 540, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0540 or submitted electronically, and shall contain the student’s full name, NJHESAA ID number, college of attendance, and a description of the basis for the appeal. The Director of Grants and Scholarship shall respond in writing with the Authority’s final determination of the appeal within 30 days of the Authority’s receipt of the appeal.

LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY

DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF HEATING, VENTILATING, AIR CONDITIONING, AND REFRIGERATION CONTRACTORS

Electrical Contractor Exemption; Connection of Replacement Wiring

Authorized By: State Board of Examiners of Heating, Ventilating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Contractors, Susan Rischawy, Executive Director.


Calendar Reference: See Summary below for explanation of exception to calendar requirement.

Proposal Number: PRN 2021-049.

Submit written comments by August 6, 2021, to:
Susan Rischawy, Executive Director
State Board of Examiners of Heating, Ventilating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Contractors
124 Halsey Street
PO Box 47031
Newark, New Jersey 07101
or electronically at:
http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/Proposals/Pages/default.aspx.

The agency proposal follows:

Summary
P.L. 2019, c. 260, establishes that a licensed electrical contractor who has completed continuing education in the installation of gas piping relevant to electric generators is authorized to install, maintain, or repair gas piping associated with electric generators without holding a license from the Board of Examiners of Heating, Ventilating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Contractors (Board). The Board proposes amendments at N.J.A.C. 13:32A-1.1 to implement P.L. 2019, c. 260. N.J.A.C. 13:32A-1.2 and 1.3 permit licensed master heating, ventilating, air conditioning, and refrigeration (HVACR) contractors to provide limited electrical work.

The Board proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 13:32A-1.2 and 1.3 to revise the limitations on the electrical work the licensed master HVACR contractors may perform.

N.J.A.C. 13:32A-1.1 sets forth exemptions to the requirement that a person hold a license as a master HVACR contractor if he or she seeks to provide HVACR services. The Board proposes to amend this section to provide an exemption to HVACR licensure requirements for licensed electrical contractors who install, maintain, or repair natural or manufactured gas piping while installing or repairing electric generators.

Such licensed electrical contractors must have completed one hour of continuing education in natural gas piping and one hour of continuing education in manufactured gas piping.

The definition of “heating, ventilating, air conditioning, and refrigeration,” at N.J.A.C. 13:32A-1.2, includes specific services that are considered the practice of HVACR. One of these services is, in replacement cases only, the connection of wiring from an equipment replacement case to an equipment replacement case, another piece of equipment or a branch circuit. The Board proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 13:32A-1.2 to delete the limitations as to heating or cooling capacity or voltage. These amendments conform to the statutory definition of “heating, ventilating, air conditioning, and refrigeration” at N.J.S.A. 45:16A-2.

N.J.A.C. 13:32A-1.3 provides that, except for replacement work included in the definition of “heating, ventilating, air conditioning, and refrigeration” at N.J.A.C. 13:32A-1.2, a licensed master HVACR contractor is limited to performing electrical work that has a potential of