

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: HB 460

52nd Legislature, 1st Session, 2015

Tracking Number: .199395.1

Short Title: Study Lottery Tuition Recipient Mentoring

Sponsor(s): Representative Patricio Ruiloba and Others

Analyst: Travis Dulany

Date: March 1, 2015

Bill Summary:

HB 460 adds a new section to the *Legislative Lottery Tuition Scholarship Act* to establish the “Lottery Student Community Outreach Pilot Project” as a six-year study that encourages students who receive the Legislative Lottery Tuition Scholarship to volunteer to provide community outreach, chiefly through mentoring public school students. Tuition scholarship recipients are not required to participate to maintain their scholarship.

The purpose of the pilot project is to demonstrate that:

- both mentors and mentees receive similar benefits, including improved grades and on-time graduation and a renewed sense of confidence, purpose, and community and civic engagement;
- this service improves the community in which the student volunteer works and the public school student lives;
- mentoring by young adults can help disadvantaged public school students narrow the achievement gap; improve cognitive, social, and behavioral skills; and lead to higher test scores and success in school; and
- mentoring can also help the student volunteer improve the student volunteer’s skills, test scores, and success in college, as well as inculcate civic and social engagement in community life.

Among its other provisions, HB 460:

- prescribes the duties of the Higher Education Department (HED), among them:
 - administer the pilot project along with at least three public postsecondary educational institutions;
 - certify a list of nonprofit community- and education-oriented organizations that maintain relationships with public schools with which student volunteers may work;
 - determine application requirements and procedures to apply for the pilot project, criteria to evaluate applications, and quantitative and qualitative measures of the pilot project’s efficacy;
 - establish reporting and evaluation requirements for all participants in the pilot project; and
 - provide interim and final reports annually to the Governor and the Legislature;

- specifies that a student who wants to participate in the pilot project is to provide at least two hours per week of community outreach with public school students in the area of the student’s public postsecondary educational institution;
- grants preference for the pilot project to institutions in areas with high poverty rates and in public schools with 85 percent or more of the students eligible for free- or reduced-fee lunch and high English language learner populations;
- requires that community outreach under the program must consist of:
 - partnering with community-based organizations and assisting with community-based projects;
 - mentoring public school students; or
 - mentoring first-year college students;
- sets forth the schedule of community outreach for student volunteers:
 - students in their first program semester shall partner with a community-based organization to assist in community outreach or specific community-based projects;
 - students in their sophomore and junior years shall mentor students in grades K-12; and
 - students in their senior year shall mentor college freshmen.
- requires participating public schools to identify willing students who would benefit from participation and requires the K-12 students’ teachers or school principals to work with the nonprofit organization and college student volunteer to determine what activities and types of engagement would benefit the K-12 mentee student;
- requires participating public postsecondary institutions, nonprofit community- and education-oriented organizations, and public schools to actively seek public and private grants and donations for any costs of the pilot project;
- specifies that grants and donations must be kept and expended as other grants and donations of the institution, organization, or public school; and
- provides that, if a tuition scholarship student who wants to participate is unable to perform the community outreach service during the school year because of class load, work requirements, or other reasons, the student volunteer may volunteer for an approved community outreach project that will be available for the student volunteer to participate in during semester breaks or the summer for a total of at least 32 hours.

Finally, HB 460 specifies that the provisions of the new section apply to the fall 2016 and subsequent semesters of the Lottery Student Community Outreach Pilot Project’s term.

Fiscal Impact:

HB 460 does not contain an appropriation.

Technical Issues:

As noted under “Bill Summary,” above, tuition scholarship students are not required to participate in the community outreach pilot project to maintain their tuition scholarship (see page 2, lines 8-9). If participation in the pilot project is voluntary, can the *Legislative Lottery Tuition Scholarship Act* require participants to “provide at least two hours per week of community

outreach with public school students...” (see page 4, lines 14-15); or require a minimum of hours of service during semester breaks or summers (see page 5, lines 12-13).

Substantive Issues:

According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, volunteer rates for 2014 are the lowest among those aged 20-24, with 18.7 percent of individuals that volunteer compared to the overall volunteer rate of 25.3 percent. The bureau further indicates individuals with higher levels of education engage in volunteer activities at higher rates than those with less education – among persons age 25 and over, 39.4 percent of college graduates volunteered, compared with 27.3 percent of persons with some college or an associate degree and 16.4 percent of high school graduates.

Provisions in the *Legislative Lottery Tuition Scholarship Act* require qualified students:

- at two-year institutions to complete 12 credit hours per semester; and
- at four-year institutions to complete 15 credit hours per semester, or 12 credit hours if the student is a legacy student.¹

The scholarship covers tuition only; students are responsible for costs associated with housing, books, student fees, and other living expenses. As a result, some students may be required to seek employment to pay for these living expenses. Many on-campus employment policies limit students to a maximum of 20 hours of work per week. Central New Mexico Community College (CNM) indicates that having students devote time away from the classroom could decrease a student’s academic performance; conversely, having a college student mentor at-risk high school students could lay the foundation for future higher education success, according to CNM.

The Public Education Department bill analysis for another bill indicates that college students volunteering in public schools would need to undergo a background check and some training.

Background:

Created by legislation enacted in 1996, the Legislative Lottery Tuition Scholarship is a renewable award granted to qualified students beginning in their second semester at a public postsecondary institution in New Mexico.

Under the newly enacted *Legislative Lottery Tuition Scholarship Act*, a student must:

- maintain residency in New Mexico;
- have graduated from a public or accredited private New Mexico high school or have obtained a New Mexico High School Equivalency Credential while maintaining New Mexico residency; and
- attain and maintain a grade-point average of at least 2.5.

¹ Laws 2014, Chapter 80 defines “legacy student” as one who had received the scholarship for three or more semesters prior to the end of FY 14.

State law also provides for specific accommodations with regard to:

- students with disabilities; and
- individuals who either immediately enlist in, or have recently departed from, the US Armed Forces.

Committee Referrals:

HEC/HWMC

Related Bills:

HB 429 *Lottery Scholarships for Home School*
HJM 13 *Study Student Loan Forgiveness Program*
HM 93 *Year-round Legislative Lottery Scholarship*
HM 112 *Tuition Scholarship Amounts & Notices*
SB 286 *Forfeited Lottery Prizes to Tuition Fund*
SB 521 *Lottery Scholarships for Home School*
SB 657 *Lottery Scholarship as Full Scholarship*
SM 108 *Tuition Scholarship Amounts & Notices*