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SENATE BILL 304

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001

INTRODUCED BY

Stuart Ingle

AN ACT

RELATING TO TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS; LIMITING TUITION INCREASES
FOR TUITION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 21-1-4.3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1996,
Chapter 71, Section 3, as amended) is amended to read:

"21-1-4.3. TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS AUTHORIZED-- CERTAIN
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. --

A. To the extent that funds are made available by
the legislature from the lottery tuition fund, the boards of
regents of New Mexico state university, New Mexico institute
of mining and technology, eastern New Mexico university,
western New Mexico university, the university of New Mexico,
New Mexico highlands university and northern New Mexico state
school shall award tuition scholarships for qualified resident

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1 students attending their respective institutions and branches
2 of those institutions.

3 B. Except as authorized in Subsection C of this
4 section, the tuition scholarships authorized in this section
5 shall apply only to full-time resident students who,
6 immediately upon completion of a high school curriculum at a
7 public or accredited private New Mexico high school or upon
8 receiving a graduate equivalent diploma, are accepted for
9 entrance to and attend one of the state educational
10 institutions set forth in this section or one of the branches
11 of those institutions. Each tuition scholarship shall be
12 awarded for up to four consecutive years beginning the second
13 semester of the recipient's first year of enrollment, provided
14 that the recipient has maintained residency in New Mexico and
15 maintained a grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0
16 scale during his first semester of full-time enrollment.

17 C. The tuition scholarships authorized in this
18 section shall also apply to full-time resident students who,
19 immediately upon completion of a high school curriculum at a
20 public or accredited private New Mexico high school or upon
21 receiving a graduate equivalent diploma, attend a two-year
22 public post-secondary educational institution in New Mexico
23 and who, upon the completion of that curriculum or at the end
24 of two years, whichever is sooner, transfer to one of the
25 post-secondary state educational institutions set forth in

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1 this section. Those students shall be eligible for a tuition
2 scholarship for two consecutive years, provided that those
3 students maintain residency in New Mexico, maintain a grade
4 point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale and attend the
5 institution full time during the regular academic year.

6 D. The tuition scholarships authorized in this
7 section shall also apply to full-time resident students who:

8 (1) within one hundred twenty days of
9 completion of a high school curriculum at a public or
10 accredited private New Mexico high school, or of receiving a
11 graduate equivalent diploma, begin service in the United
12 States armed forces; and

13 (2) within one hundred twenty days of
14 completion of honorable service or medical discharge from the
15 service are accepted for entrance to and attend one of the
16 state educational institutions set forth in this section.

17 E. The board of regents of an institution of
18 higher learning named in Subsection A of this section shall
19 not increase the tuition of a student from that in effect for
20 the semester in which the student first receives a tuition
21 scholarship pursuant to this section as long as the student
22 remains at the institution and continues to be eligible for
23 the tuition scholarship.

24 [~~E.~~] F. The commission on higher education shall
25 prepare guidelines setting forth explicit student continuing

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1 eligibility criteria and guidelines for administration of the
2 tuition scholarship program. Guidelines shall be distributed
3 to the board of regents of each institution to enable a
4 uniform availability of the resident student tuition
5 scholarships. "

6 Section 2. Section 21-13-10 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1963,
7 Chapter 17, Section 9, as amended) is amended to read:

8 "21-13-10. BOARD DUTIES. --

9 A. It is the duty of the community college board
10 to determine financial and educational policies of the
11 community college. The community college board shall provide
12 for the management of the community college and execution of
13 these policies by selecting a competent president for the
14 community college, and, upon the president's recommendation,
15 the board shall employ other administrative personnel,
16 instructional staff or other personnel as may be needed for
17 the operation, maintenance and administration of the community
18 college.

19 B. The community college board shall have the
20 power to fix tuition and fee rates for resident and
21 nonresident students of the district, to accept gifts, to
22 accept federal aid, to purchase, hold, sell and rent property
23 and equipment and to promote the general welfare of the
24 institution for the best interest of educational service to
25 the people of the community college district.

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1 C. To the extent that funds are made available by
2 the legislature from the lottery tuition fund, the community
3 college board shall award tuition scholarships for qualified
4 resident students attending their respective institutions.
5 All other scholarship funds available to the board shall be
6 used before granting any lottery tuition scholarships.

7 D. The tuition scholarships authorized in this
8 section shall apply only to full-time resident students who,
9 immediately upon completion of a high school curriculum at a
10 public or accredited private New Mexico high school or upon
11 receiving a graduate equivalent diploma, are accepted for
12 entrance to and attend a community college. Each tuition
13 scholarship shall be awarded for up to two consecutive years
14 beginning the second semester of the recipient's first year of
15 enrollment, provided that the recipient has maintained
16 residency in New Mexico and maintained a grade point average
17 of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale during his first semester of
18 full-time enrollment. The community college board shall not
19 increase the tuition of a student from that in effect for the
20 semester in which the student first receives a tuition
21 scholarship pursuant to this section as long as the student
22 remains at the institution and continues to be eligible for
23 the tuition scholarship.

24 E. The commission on higher education shall
25 prepare guidelines setting forth explicit student continuing

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1 eligibility criteria and guidelines for administration of the
2 tuition scholarship program. Guidelines shall be distributed
3 to community college boards to enable a uniform availability
4 of the scholarship. "

5 Section 3. Section 21-16-10.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws
6 1996, Chapter 71, Section 6, as amended) is amended to read:

7 "21-16-10.1. TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS AUTHORIZED. --

8 A. To the extent that funds are made available by
9 the legislature from the lottery tuition fund, the board of a
10 technical and vocational institute shall award tuition
11 scholarships for qualified resident students attending a
12 technical and vocational institute. All other scholarship
13 funds available to the board shall be used before granting any
14 lottery tuition scholarships.

15 B. The tuition scholarships authorized in this
16 section shall apply only to full-time resident students who,
17 immediately upon completion of a high school curriculum at a
18 public or accredited private New Mexico high school or upon
19 receiving a graduate equivalent diploma, are accepted for
20 entrance to and attend a technical and vocational institute.
21 Each tuition scholarship shall be awarded for up to two
22 consecutive years beginning the second semester of the
23 recipient's first year of enrollment, provided that the
24 recipient has maintained residency in New Mexico and
25 maintained a grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0

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1 scale during his first semester of full-time enrollment with
2 renewal of an additional two years upon transfer. The board
3 of a technical and vocational institute shall not increase the
4 tuition of a student from that in effect for the semester in
5 which the student first receives a tuition scholarship
6 pursuant to this section as long as the student remains at the
7 institution and continues to be eligible for the tuition
8 scholarship.

9 C. The commission on higher education shall
10 prepare guidelines setting forth explicit student continuing
11 eligibility criteria and guidelines for administration of the
12 tuition scholarship program. Guidelines shall be distributed
13 to the boards of technical and vocational institutes to enable
14 a uniform availability of the scholarships. "