SENATE BILL 497

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

INTRODUCED BY

Mark Boitano

AN ACT

RELATING TO TAXATION; ENACTING AN INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR COMPLETION OF PREMARITAL EDUCATION OR MARRIAGE MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS.

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

Section 1. A new section of the Income Tax Act is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] CREDIT--PREMARITAL EDUCATION OR MARRIAGE
MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS. --

A. A resident who files an individual New Mexico income tax return and who is not a dependent of another individual may claim a credit in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100) for completion of a premarital education or marriage maintenance program in the taxable year for which the credit is claimed.

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return.

| B. The credit provided in this section may only be |
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| deducted from the taxpayer's New Mexico income tax liability |
| for the taxable year. |
| C. A husband and wife who file separate returns |
| for a taxable year in which they could have filed a joint |
| return may each claim only one-half of the credit provided |
| |

D. The credit provided in this section may be claimed only for a premarital education or marriage maintenance program:

under this section that would have been allowed on a joint

- (1) that provides a minimum of six hours of education or counseling in no less than three separate sessions;
- (2) is conducted by an official representative of a religious institution or his designee or a person who is licensed or certified pursuant to state law as a marriage and family therapist, a psychiatrist, a psychologist, a professional clinical mental health counselor, an independent social worker or a certified family life educator; and
- (3) for which the taxpayer has received written certification verifying completion in a form determined by the department."

Section 2. APPLICABILITY. -- The provisions of this act