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HOUSE BILL 81

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

Nick L. Salazar

FOR THE INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

**RELATING TO LOTTERY SCHOLARSHIPS; INCLUDING TRIBAL AND
FEDERALLY INITIATED INDIAN POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL
INSTITUTIONS AS PARTICIPANTS THAT MAY RECEIVE LOTTERY
SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS FOR THEIR RESIDENT NEW MEXICO STUDENTS;
AMENDING A SECTION OF THE NMSA 1978.**

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 governing
boards of [~~regents of New Mexico state university, New Mexico
institute of mining and technology, eastern New Mexico~~**

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1 ~~university, western New Mexico university, the university of~~
2 ~~New Mexico, New Mexico highlands university and northern New~~
3 ~~Mexico state school]~~ two-year or four-year post-secondary
4 educational institutions shall award tuition scholarships for
5 qualified resident students attending their respective
6 institutions [~~and branches of those institutions~~].

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

22 C. The tuition scholarships authorized in this
23 section shall also apply to full-time resident students who,
24 immediately upon completion of a high school curriculum at a
25 public or accredited private New Mexico high school or upon

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1 receiving a graduate equivalent diploma, attend a two-year
2 [~~public~~] post-secondary educational institution [~~in New Mexico~~]
3 and who, upon the completion of that curriculum or at the end
4 of two years, whichever is sooner, transfer to [~~one of the~~] a
5 four-year post-secondary [~~state~~] educational [~~institutions set~~
6 ~~forth in this section~~] institution. Those students shall be
7 eligible for a tuition scholarship for up to two consecutive
8 years while attending a two-year post-secondary educational
9 institution and for up to an additional three and one-half
10 years, not to exceed a total of four years of eligibility,
11 while attending a four-year post-secondary educational
12 institution, provided that those students maintain residency in
13 New Mexico, maintain a grade point average of 2.5 or higher on
14 a 4.0 scale and attend the institution full time during the
15 regular academic year.

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

18 (1) within one hundred twenty days of
19 completion of a high school curriculum at a public or
20 accredited private New Mexico high school, or of receiving a
21 graduate equivalent diploma, begin service in the United States
22 armed forces; and

23 (2) within one hundred twenty days of
24 completion of honorable service or medical discharge from the
25 service are accepted for entrance to and attend [~~one of the~~

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1 ~~state]~~ a two-year or four-year post-secondary educational
2 ~~[institutions set forth in this section]~~ institution.

3 E. The commission on higher education shall prepare
4 guidelines setting forth explicit student continuing
5 eligibility criteria and guidelines for administration of the
6 tuition scholarship program. Guidelines shall be distributed
7 to the governing board ~~[of regents]~~ of each two-year or four-
8 year post-secondary educational institution to enable a uniform
9 availability of the resident student tuition scholarships.

10 F. As used in this section:

11 (1) "four-year post-secondary educational
12 institution" means New Mexico state university, New Mexico
13 institute of mining and technology, eastern New Mexico
14 university, western New Mexico university, the university of
15 New Mexico, New Mexico highlands university, any of their
16 branches or the New Mexico campus of a post-secondary
17 educational institution created by an Indian nation, tribe or
18 pueblo or by the federal government that offers four-year
19 degrees in some if not all subjects in which curricula are
20 offered;

21 (2) "two-year or four-year post-secondary
22 educational institution" means an institution defined in this
23 section as a two-year post-secondary educational institution
24 and an institution defined in this section as a four-year post-
25 secondary educational institution; and

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