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SENATE BILL 331

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004

INTRODUCED BY

Leonard Tsosie

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]~~ public two-year or public four-year
4 post-secondary educational institutions shall award tuition
5 scholarships for qualified resident students attending their
6 respective 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 public four-year post-secondary
16 educational institution. Each tuition scholarship shall be
17 awarded for up to four consecutive years beginning the second
18 semester of the recipient's first year of enrollment, provided
19 that the recipient has maintained residency in New Mexico and
20 maintained a grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0
21 scale during 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 public
2 two-year [~~public~~] post-secondary educational institution [~~in~~
3 ~~New Mexico~~] and who, upon the completion of that curriculum or
4 at the end of two years, whichever is sooner, transfer to [~~one~~
5 ~~of the~~] a public four-year post-secondary [state] educational
6 [~~institutions set forth in this section~~] institution. Those
7 students shall be eligible for a tuition scholarship for up to
8 two consecutive years while attending a public two-year post-
9 secondary educational institution and for up to an additional
10 three and one-half years, not to exceed a total of four years
11 of eligibility, while attending a public four-year post-
12 secondary educational institution, provided that those students
13 maintain residency in New Mexico, maintain a grade point
14 average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale and attend the
15 institution full time during the 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 public two-year or a public four-year post-secondary
2 educational [~~institutions set forth in this section~~]
3 institution.

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

12 F. As used in this section:

13 (1) "public four-year post-secondary
14 educational institution" means New Mexico state university, New
15 Mexico institute of mining and technology, eastern New Mexico
16 university, western New Mexico university, the university of
17 New Mexico and New Mexico highlands university, or a branch of
18 those institutions, or the New Mexico campus of a post-
19 secondary educational institution created by an Indian nation,
20 tribe or pueblo or by the federal government that offers four-
21 year degrees; and

22 (2) "public two-year post-secondary
23 educational institution" means northern New Mexico state school
24 or the New Mexico campus of a post-secondary educational
25 institution created by an Indian tribe, nation or pueblo or the

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1 federal government that offers at least one two-year program,
2 completion of which results in conferral of a degree for
3 completion of a two-year curriculum."

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