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SENATE BILL 656

**47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2006**

INTRODUCED BY  
Cynthia Nava

AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; DEFINING "FULL TIME" FOR STUDENTS  
WITH DISABILITIES FOR PURPOSES OF THE LOTTERY TUITION  
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

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. LOTTERY 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~~]

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1 college shall award lottery tuition scholarships for qualified  
2 resident students attending their respective institutions and  
3 branches of those institutions.

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

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

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1 two years, whichever is sooner, transfer to one of the post-  
2 secondary state educational institutions set forth in this  
3 section. Those students shall be eligible for a tuition  
4 scholarship for two consecutive years [~~provided that those~~  
5 ~~students~~] if they maintain residency in New Mexico, maintain a  
6 grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale and attend  
7 the institution full time during the regular academic year.

8 D. The lottery tuition scholarships authorized in  
9 this section shall also apply to full-time resident students  
10 who:

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

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

20 E. The [~~commission on~~] higher education department  
21 shall prepare guidelines setting forth explicit student  
22 continuing eligibility criteria and guidelines for  
23 administration of the lottery tuition scholarship program.  
24 Guidelines shall be distributed to the board of regents of each  
25 institution to enable a uniform availability of the resident

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1 student lottery tuition scholarships.

2 F. For purposes of the lottery tuition scholarship  
3 program as it applies to students with disabilities who may  
4 require special accommodations, the higher education  
5 department, in consultation with the student and the office at  
6 the institution that serves students with disabilities, shall  
7 review both the definition of "full time" and the maximum  
8 number of consecutive semesters of eligibility and adjust  
9 either or both as deemed reasonable and appropriate, based on  
10 the student's disability needs. In no case, however, shall  
11 "full time" mean fewer than six credit hours per term and in no  
12 case shall eligibility extend beyond fourteen consecutive  
13 semesters."

14 Section 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the  
15 provisions of this act is July 1, 2006.