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HOUSE BILL 282

**48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007**

INTRODUCED BY

Thomas E. Swisstack

AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; EXTENDING THE TIME FOR MILITARY  
VETERANS TO APPLY FOR LOTTERY TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS.

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~~]  
college 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~~] Subsections  
4 C and D of this section, the tuition scholarships authorized in  
5 this section shall apply only to full-time resident students  
6 who, immediately upon completion of a high school curriculum at  
7 a 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~~] the 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 and  
23 who, upon the completion of that curriculum or at the end of  
24 two years, whichever is sooner, transfer to one of the post-  
25 secondary state educational institutions set forth in this

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1 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 States  
12 armed forces; and

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

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

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

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1 "21-13-10. BOARD DUTIES.--

2 A. It is the duty of the community college board to  
3 determine financial and educational policies of the community  
4 college. The community college board shall provide for the  
5 management of the community college and execution of these  
6 policies by selecting a competent president for the community  
7 college, and, upon the president's recommendation, the board  
8 shall employ other administrative personnel, instructional  
9 staff or other personnel as may be needed for the operation,  
10 maintenance and administration of the community college.

11 B. The community college board shall have the power  
12 to fix tuition and fee rates for resident and nonresident  
13 students of the community college district, to accept gifts, to  
14 accept federal aid, to purchase, hold, sell and rent property  
15 and equipment and to promote the general welfare of the  
16 institution for the best interest of educational service to the  
17 people of the community college district.

18 C. To the extent that funds are made available by  
19 the legislature from the lottery tuition fund, the community  
20 college board shall award tuition scholarships for qualified  
21 resident students attending their respective institutions.

22 D. The tuition scholarships authorized in this  
23 section shall apply only to full-time resident students who:

24 (1) immediately upon completion of a high  
25 school curriculum at a public or accredited private New Mexico

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1 high school or upon receiving a graduate equivalent diploma,  
2 are accepted for entrance to and attend a community college; or  
3 (2) within one hundred twenty days of  
4 completion of a high school curriculum at a public or  
5 accredited private New Mexico high school, or of receiving a  
6 graduate equivalent diploma, begin service in the United States  
7 armed forces; and within twelve months of completion of  
8 honorable service or medical discharge from the service are  
9 accepted for entrance to and attend a community college.

10 E. Each tuition scholarship shall be awarded for up  
11 to two consecutive years beginning the second semester of the  
12 recipient's first year of enrollment, provided that the  
13 recipient has maintained residency in New Mexico and maintained  
14 a grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale during  
15 [~~his~~] the first semester of full-time enrollment.

16 [~~E.~~] F. The [~~commission on~~] higher education  
17 department shall prepare guidelines setting forth explicit  
18 student continuing eligibility criteria and guidelines for  
19 administration of the tuition scholarship program. Guidelines  
20 shall be distributed to community college boards to enable a  
21 uniform availability of the resident student tuition  
22 scholarships."

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

25 "21-16-10.1. TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS AUTHORIZED.--

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1           A. To the extent that funds are made available by  
2 the legislature from the lottery tuition fund, the board of a  
3 technical and vocational institute shall award tuition  
4 scholarships for qualified resident students attending a  
5 technical and vocational institute.

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

8                 (1) immediately upon completion of a high  
9 school curriculum at a public or accredited private New Mexico  
10 high school or upon receiving a graduate equivalent diploma,  
11 are accepted for entrance to and attend a technical and  
12 vocational institute; or

13                 (2) within one hundred twenty days of  
14 completion of a high school curriculum at a public or  
15 accredited private New Mexico high school, or of receiving a  
16 graduate equivalent diploma, begin service in the United States  
17 armed forces; and within twelve months of completion of  
18 honorable service or medical discharge from the service are  
19 accepted for entrance to and attend a technical or vocational  
20 institute.

21           C. Each tuition scholarship shall be awarded for up  
22 to two 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 maintained  
25 a grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale during

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1 [his] the first semester of full-time enrollment with renewal  
2 of an additional two years upon transfer.

3 [G.] D. The ~~[commission on]~~ higher education  
4 department shall prepare guidelines setting forth explicit  
5 student continuing eligibility criteria and guidelines for  
6 administration of the tuition scholarship program. Guidelines  
7 shall be distributed to the boards of technical and vocational  
8 institutes to enable a uniform availability of the resident  
9 student tuition scholarships."

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