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SENATE BILL 103

**52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2016**

INTRODUCED BY

William P. Soules

AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; PROVIDING FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR THE  
LEGISLATIVE LOTTERY TUITION SCHOLARSHIP TO STUDENTS WHO ATTEND  
A PUBLIC POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION WITHIN EIGHTEEN  
MONTHS FOLLOWING HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION, RECEIPT OF A HIGH  
SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY CREDENTIAL OR COMPLETION OF HONORABLE  
MILITARY SERVICE.

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 21-21N-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2014,  
Chapter 80, Section 2) is amended to read:

"21-21N-2. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Legislative  
Lottery Tuition Scholarship Act:

A. "community college" means a branch community  
college of a state educational institution or a community  
college or technical and vocational institute established

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1 pursuant to Chapter 21, Article 13 or 16 NMSA 1978,  
2 respectively;

3 B. "comprehensive institution" means eastern  
4 New Mexico university, western New Mexico university,  
5 New Mexico highlands university or northern New Mexico college;

6 C. "department" means the higher education  
7 department;

8 D. "full time" means fifteen or more credit hours  
9 each semester of the regular academic year in state educational  
10 institutions and twelve or more credit hours each semester of  
11 the regular academic year in community colleges or for legacy  
12 students in any program semester;

13 E. "fund" means the lottery tuition fund;

14 F. "legacy student" means a full-time resident  
15 student who has received for three or more program semesters by  
16 the end of fiscal year 2014 the legislative lottery scholarship  
17 awarded pursuant to the former provisions of Sections 21-1-4.3,  
18 21-13-10 and 21-16-10.1 NMSA 1978 prior to the enactment of the  
19 Legislative Lottery Tuition Scholarship Act;

20 G. "program semesters" means those semesters for  
21 which a legacy or qualified student may receive a tuition  
22 scholarship and excludes the first semester of attendance at a  
23 public post-secondary educational institution;

24 H. "public post-secondary educational institution"  
25 means a community college, comprehensive institution, research

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1 institution or state educational institution;

2 I. "qualified student" means a full-time student  
3 who graduated from a public or accredited private New Mexico  
4 high school or who received a high school equivalency  
5 credential while maintaining residency in New Mexico and who:

6 (1) either:

7 (a) [~~immediately upon~~] within eighteen  
8 months of graduation or receipt of a credential was accepted  
9 for entrance to and attended a public post-secondary  
10 educational institution; or

11 (b) within one hundred twenty days of  
12 completion of a high school curriculum or receipt of a high  
13 school equivalency credential began service in the United  
14 States armed forces and within [~~one year~~] eighteen months of  
15 completion of honorable service or medical discharge from the  
16 service, attended a public post-secondary educational  
17 institution; and

18 (2) successfully completed the first semester  
19 at a public post-secondary educational institution with a grade  
20 point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale during the first  
21 semester of full-time enrollment;

22 J. "research institution" means the university of  
23 New Mexico, New Mexico state university or New Mexico institute  
24 of mining and technology;

25 K. "state educational institution" means an

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1 institution of higher education enumerated in Article 12,  
2 Section 11 of the constitution of New Mexico and excludes a  
3 research institution; and

4 L. "tuition scholarship" means the scholarship that  
5 provides tuition assistance per semester for a qualified  
6 student or legacy student attending a public post-secondary  
7 educational institution."

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