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AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; PROVIDING A SIXTEEN-MONTH GRACE PERIOD FOR STUDENTS TO QUALIFY FOR A LEGISLATIVE LOTTERY TUITION SCHOLARSHIP.

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, as amended) 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 four-year state educational institution, a two-year state educational institution or a community college or technical and vocational institute established pursuant to Chapter 21, Article 13 or 16 NMSA 1978, respectively;

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

C. "department" means the higher education department;

D. "full time" means fifteen or more credit hours each semester of the regular academic year in state educational institutions and twelve or more credit hours each semester of the regular academic year in community colleges

1 or for legacy students in any program semester;

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

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

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

14 H. "public post-secondary educational institution"
15 means a four-year state educational institution or a
16 community college;

17 I. "qualified student" means a full-time student
18 who graduated from a public or accredited private New Mexico
19 high school or who received a high school equivalency
20 credential while maintaining residency in New Mexico and who:

21 (1) either:

22 (a) within sixteen months of graduation
23 or receipt of a high school equivalency credential, was
24 accepted for entrance to and attended a public post-secondary
25 educational institution; or

1 (b) within four months of graduation or
2 receipt of a high school equivalency credential, began
3 service in the United States armed forces and within sixteen
4 months of completion of honorable service or medical
5 discharge from the service, attended a public post-secondary
6 educational institution; and

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

11 J. "research institution" means the university of
12 New Mexico, New Mexico state university or New Mexico
13 institute of mining and technology;

14 K. "state educational institution" means an
15 institution of higher education enumerated in Article 12,
16 Section 11 of the constitution of New Mexico; and

17 L. "tuition scholarship" means the scholarship
18 that provides tuition assistance per program semester for a
19 qualified student or legacy student attending a public
20 post-secondary educational institution."

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