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LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS
54th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2020

Bill Number	<u>HB277</u>	Sponsor	<u>Anderson</u>
Tracking Number	<u>.216879.1</u>	Committee Referrals	<u>HEC/HAFC</u>
Short Title	<u>ENMU Greyhound Promise Scholarships</u>		
Analyst	<u>Waite</u>	Original Date	<u>2/11/2020</u>
		Last Updated	<u></u>

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 277 (HB277) makes an appropriation to Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU) board of regents for the Greyhound Promise teacher scholarship program.

HB277 stipulates that the Greyhound Promise scholarships cover the cost of attendance expenses for teacher education students. Students should be reflective of the ENMU student body ethnic and racial makeup, have a minimum ACT score of 17 or the equivalent SAT score, and have a minimum high school grade point average of 2.75 out of 4.0. Scholarship recipients will be required to commit to teach in one or more New Mexico public schools for four years.

FISCAL IMPACT

HB277 appropriates \$300 thousand from the general fund to ENMU board of regents for expenditure in FY21 and subsequent fiscal years. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

In FY20, the Legislature appropriated \$100 thousand to the Greyhound Promise program in Laws 2019, Chapter 279 (HB548). The House Appropriations and Finance Committee Substitute for House Bills 2 and 3 (HB2/HAFC) transfers \$5 million to the teacher preparation affordability scholarship fund and includes \$656 thousand for teacher education expansion programs at the University of New Mexico, New Mexico State University (NMSU), ENMU, and Santa Fe Community College. HB2/HAFC contains an appropriation of \$100 thousand to the Greyhound Promise teacher scholarship program.

In FY20, 34 prospective teachers were awarded an average of \$3,000 per semester in Greyhound Promise scholarships, plus a \$500 stipend for books. ENMU reports that there was a waiting list at the start of the spring semester despite very little time to advertise the program. ENMU expects that an increased appropriation would allow the school to support 80 additional students. There are 20 full-time faculty in the College of Education, in addition to content-area faculty for

secondary licensure. The college has graduated an average of 35 undergraduate and 86 graduate students per year since 2015. Research has shown students perform better academically when taught by teachers with similar backgrounds. The Greyhound Promise scholarship program encourages diversity in ENMU's teacher preparation program by requiring qualifying students to mirror the university's overall student demographics.

The mission of the Greyhound Promise program is to help reduce New Mexico's teacher vacancies by attracting qualified teacher education candidates and supporting them through college and into the classroom. The NMSU Southwest Outreach Academic Research Evaluation and Policy Center reports 644 teacher vacancies in NM as of October 2019. According to the Project on Student Debt, an initiative of the nonprofit Institute for College Access & Success, about 70% of college graduates have student loan debt. The average amount owed was \$30,100 per borrower. Given teachers' starting salaries, the average graduate of a teacher preparation program can expect to sustain a high debt-to-income ratio. ENMU analysis reports that teacher candidates may be eligible for Pell or New Mexico lottery scholarships, but aid may not cover enough of their cost of attendance. In addition, candidates cannot work during their (final) intensive practice-teaching semester, making financial assistance even more critical toward the end of their program.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

ENMU develops the procedures to award scholarships. ENMU and New Mexico Higher Education Department analyses report that ENMU will need to also monitor and track students after graduation, although the bill does not explicitly stipulate a data collection or program evaluation component. This research would inform grant administrators and the state about how well Greyhound Promise is helping to recruit and retain teachers.

ALTERNATIVES

ENMU reports that the bill's minimum ACT score may be too low; freshmen who earned a 17 on the ACT may struggle to pass the assessments required as a prerequisite for teacher licensure.

Because the Public Education Department recently adopted the SAT as the state's mandatory assessment for all 11th grade students, the sponsor of the bill may wish to list a minimum SAT score required for the scholarship, rather than a minimum ACT score.

RELATED BILLS

Duplicate of SB199, ENMU Greyhound Promise Scholarship

Relates to HB49, Grow Your Own Teacher Act Eligibility, which expands the pool of eligible recipients for the Grow Your Own Teachers scholarship program to include educational assistants.

Relates to SB89, Bilingual Teacher Scholarship Act, which creates a bilingual teacher scholarship program for licensed teachers seeking endorsements or degrees in teaching English to speakers of other languages or bilingual multicultural education.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files
- Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU)
- New Mexico Department of Higher Education (HED)