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SENATE BILL 77

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

Mark Boitano

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; PERMITTING STUDENTS WHO ARE CHILDREN OF TEACHERS CERTIFIED BY THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS TO QUALIFY FOR 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

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1 highlands university and northern New Mexico state school shall
2 award tuition scholarships for qualified resident students
3 attending their respective institutions and branches of those
4 institutions.

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

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

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

9 D. The tuition scholarships authorized in this
10 section shall ~~[also]~~ apply to full-time resident students 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. A student who did not graduate from a New Mexico
21 high school but whose parent is a teacher certified by the
22 national board for professional teaching standards who is
23 teaching in a New Mexico public school shall be immediately
24 eligible for a tuition scholarship authorized in this section
25 upon completion by the student of a high school curriculum at a

1 public or accredited private high school outside New Mexico or
2 upon receipt by the student of a graduate equivalent diploma.

3 [E-] F. The commission on higher education shall
4 prepare guidelines setting forth explicit student continuing
5 eligibility criteria and guidelines for administration of the
6 tuition scholarship program. Guidelines shall be distributed
7 to the board of regents of each institution to enable a uniform
8 availability of the resident student tuition scholarships. "

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