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HOUSE BILL 119

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

AN ACT

**RELATING TO LOTTERY SCHOLARSHIPS; EXTENDING ELIGIBILITY FOR
TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS TO TWO YEARS AFTER GRADUATION.**

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 shall
award tuition scholarships for qualified resident students**

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1 attending their respective institutions and branches of those
2 institutions.

3 B. Except as authorized in Subsection C of this
4 section, the tuition scholarships authorized in this section
5 shall apply only to full-time resident students who,
6 immediately upon completion of a high school curriculum at a
7 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]~~ within two years of completion of a high
20 school curriculum at a public or accredited private New Mexico
21 high school or upon receiving a graduate equivalent diploma,
22 attend a two-year public post-secondary educational institution
23 in New Mexico and who, upon the completion of that curriculum
24 or at the end of two years, whichever is sooner, transfer to
25 one of the post-secondary state educational institutions set

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1 forth in this section. Those students shall be eligible for a
2 tuition scholarship for two consecutive years, provided that
3 those students maintain residency in New Mexico, maintain a
4 grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale and attend
5 the 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 of
14 completion of honorable service or medical discharge from the
15 service are accepted for entrance to and attend one of the
16 state educational institutions set forth in this section.

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

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

25 "21-13-10. BOARD DUTIES. --

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

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

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

21 D. The tuition scholarships authorized in this
22 section shall apply only to full-time resident students who,
23 [~~immediately upon~~] within two years of completion of a high
24 school curriculum at a public or accredited private New Mexico
25 high school or upon receiving a graduate equivalent diploma,

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1 are accepted for entrance to and attend a community college.
2 Each tuition scholarship shall be awarded for up to two
3 consecutive years beginning the second semester of the
4 recipient's first year of enrollment, provided that the
5 recipient has maintained residency in New Mexico and maintained
6 a grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale during
7 ~~[his]~~ the first semester of full-time enrollment.

8 E. The commission on higher education shall prepare
9 guidelines setting forth explicit student continuing
10 eligibility criteria and guidelines for administration of the
11 tuition scholarship program. Guidelines shall be distributed
12 to community college boards to enable a uniform availability of
13 the resident student tuition scholarships. "

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

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

17 A. To the extent that funds are made available by
18 the legislature from the lottery tuition fund, the board of a
19 technical and vocational institute shall award tuition
20 scholarships for qualified resident students attending a
21 technical and vocational institute.

22 B. The tuition scholarships authorized in this
23 section shall apply only to full-time resident students who,
24 ~~[immediately upon]~~ within two years of 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 technical and
3 vocational institute. Each tuition scholarship shall be
4 awarded for up to two consecutive years beginning the second
5 semester of the recipient's first year of enrollment, provided
6 that the recipient has maintained residency in New Mexico and
7 maintained a grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0
8 scale during ~~[his]~~ the first semester of full-time enrollment
9 with renewal of an additional two years upon transfer.

10 C. The commission on higher education shall prepare
11 guidelines setting forth explicit student continuing
12 eligibility criteria and guidelines for administration of the
13 tuition scholarship program. Guidelines shall be distributed
14 to the boards of technical and vocational institutes to enable
15 a uniform availability of the resident student tuition
16 scholarships. "