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HOUSE BILL 140
47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005
INTRODUCED BY
W. C. "Dub" Williams

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO LOTTERY SCHOLARSHIPS; EXTENDING TUITION SCHOLARSHIP
ELIGIBILITY TO STUDENTS WHO HAVE ATTAINED AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE.

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 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 completion of a high school curriculum at a
20 public or accredited private New Mexico high school or upon
21 receiving a graduate equivalent diploma, attend a two-year
22 public post-secondary educational institution in New Mexico and
23 who, ~~[upon the completion of that curriculum or at the end of]~~
24 within two years [whichever is sooner, transfer to] of
25 completing that program, are accepted to pursue a bachelor's

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1 degree at one of the post-secondary state educational
2 institutions set forth in this section. Those students shall
3 be eligible for a tuition scholarship for [~~two consecutive~~
4 years] four consecutive semesters, provided that those students
5 maintain residency in New Mexico, maintain a grade point
6 average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale and attend the
7 institution full time during the regular academic year.

8 D. The tuition scholarships authorized in this
9 section shall also apply to full-time resident students who:

10 (1) within one hundred twenty days of
11 completion of a high school curriculum at a public or
12 accredited private New Mexico high school, or of receiving a
13 graduate equivalent diploma, begin service in the United States
14 armed forces; and

15 (2) within one hundred twenty days of
16 completion of honorable service or medical discharge from the
17 service are accepted for entrance to and attend one of the
18 state educational institutions set forth in this section.

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