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AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE; EXPANDING THE EDUCATION WORKS PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY; AMENDING A SECTION OF THE NMSA 1978.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 27-2D-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2003, Chapter 317, Section 4, as amended) is amended to read:

"27-2D-4. EDUCATION WORKS PROGRAM--ELIGIBILITY-- RESTRICTIONS--REQUIREMENTS.--

A. A person is eligible to receive education works services or cash assistance if the person demonstrates that:

(1) the person has been accepted or has been determined to be eligible to enroll in a two- or four-year post-secondary or graduate or post-graduate degree program; and

(2) the degree the person will receive will increase the person's ability to engage in full-time paid employment.

B. A recipient shall not receive cash assistance funded by the temporary assistance for needy families block grant during the period in which the recipient is receiving cash assistance pursuant to the Education Works Act.

C. A recipient shall apply for all financial aid available from the post-secondary, graduate or post-graduate educational institution that the recipient attends.

1 D. During the twenty-four months of participation
2 in the education works program, a recipient shall engage in
3 at least twenty hours per week of class time, studying, work,
4 work-study or volunteering. The department shall assume that
5 a recipient spends one and one-half hours studying for every
6 hour of class time.

7 E. A recipient may participate in the education
8 works program for no more than twenty-four months, except
9 that a recipient may participate in the education works
10 program for one additional academic term following the
11 twenty-four-month participation limit, or for two additional
12 academic terms following the twenty-four-month participation
13 limit at the discretion of the director, if doing so will
14 result in the recipient earning a degree.

15 F. The number of recipients enrolled in the
16 education works program is limited to the number of
17 recipients who can be served by the funds available.

18 G. For purposes of this section, "work" means
19 work-study, training-related practicums, internships, paid
20 employment, volunteering or any other activity approved by the
21 department."

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