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HOUSE BILL 709

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

Eliseo Lee Alcon

AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; ALLOWING STUDENTS ATTENDING
TRIBAL COLLEGES TO RECEIVE LOTTERY TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS.

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

Section 1. Section 6-24-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1995,
Chapter 155, Section 3, as amended) is amended to read:

"6-24-3. PURPOSES.--The purposes of the New Mexico
Lottery Act are to:

A. establish and provide for the conduct of a fair
and honest lottery for the entertainment of the public; and

B. provide the maximum amount of revenues, without
imposing additional taxes or using other state revenues, for
the purpose of providing tuition assistance to resident
undergraduates at New Mexico post-secondary educational
institutions and tribal colleges."

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1 Section 2. Section 6-24-23 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1995,
2 Chapter 155, Section 23, as amended) is amended to read:

3 "6-24-23. LOTTERY TUITION FUND CREATED--PURPOSE.--

4 A. The "lottery tuition fund" is created in the
5 state treasury. The fund shall be administered by the
6 [~~commission on~~] higher education department. Earnings from
7 investment of the fund shall accrue to the credit of the fund.
8 Any balance in the fund at the end of any fiscal year shall
9 remain in the fund for appropriation by the legislature as
10 provided in this section.

11 B. Money in the lottery tuition fund is
12 appropriated to the [~~commission on~~] higher education department
13 for distribution to New Mexico's public post-secondary
14 educational institutions and tribal colleges to provide tuition
15 assistance for New Mexico resident undergraduates as provided
16 by law."

17 Section 3. A new section of Chapter 21 NMSA 1978 is
18 enacted to read:

19 "[NEW MATERIAL] TRIBAL COLLEGES--TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS FROM
20 LOTTERY.--

21 A. As used in this section, "tribal college" means
22 a tribally, federally or congressionally chartered post-
23 secondary educational institution located in New Mexico that is
24 accredited by the north central association of colleges and
25 schools.

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1 B. To the extent that funds are made available by
2 the legislature from the lottery tuition fund, the governing
3 bodies of tribal colleges may award tuition scholarships for
4 qualified resident students attending their respective
5 institutions.

6 C. 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 general education development certificate, are
11 accepted for entrance to and attend a tribal college. Each
12 tuition scholarship shall be awarded for up to four consecutive
13 years beginning the second semester of the recipient's first
14 year of enrollment if the recipient maintains residency in New
15 Mexico and maintains a grade point average of 2.5 or higher on
16 a 4.0 scale during the first semester of full-time enrollment.

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

19 (1) within one hundred twenty days of
20 completion of a high school curriculum at a public or
21 accredited private New Mexico high school, or of receiving a
22 general education development certificate, begin service in the
23 United States armed forces; and

24 (2) within one hundred twenty days of
25 completion of honorable service or medical discharge from the

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1 service are accepted for entrance to and attend a tribal
2 college.

3 E. The higher education department shall prepare
4 guidelines setting forth explicit student continuing
5 eligibility criteria and guidelines for administration of the
6 tuition scholarship program at tribal colleges. Guidelines
7 shall be distributed to the governing body of each tribal
8 college to enable a uniform availability of the resident
9 student tuition scholarships. The department shall enter into
10 agreements with the tribal colleges that allow for financial
11 and programmatic audits of the resident student tuition
12 scholarship program."

13 Section 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the
14 provisions of this act is July 1, 2009.