

1 SENATE BILL 134

2 **49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 William H. Payne

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO LEGISLATIVE LOTTERY SCHOLARSHIPS; CHANGING
12 ELIGIBILITY FOR MILITARY VETERANS TO RECEIVE A LEGISLATIVE
13 LOTTERY SCHOLARSHIP; RECONCILING MULTIPLE AMENDMENTS TO THE
14 SAME SECTION OF LAW IN LAWS 2007.

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

17 Section 1. Section 21-1-4.3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1996,
18 Chapter 71, Section 3, as amended by Laws 2007, Chapter 72,
19 Section 7 and by Laws 2007, Chapter 73, Section 1) is amended
20 to read:

21 "21-1-4.3. LEGISLATIVE LOTTERY SCHOLARSHIPS
22 AUTHORIZED--CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.--

23 A. To the extent that funds are made available by
24 the legislature from the lottery tuition fund, the boards of
25 regents of New Mexico state university, New Mexico institute of
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1 mining and technology, eastern New Mexico university, western
2 New Mexico university, the university of New Mexico, New Mexico
3 highlands university and northern New Mexico college shall
4 award legislative lottery scholarships for tuition for
5 qualified resident students attending their respective
6 institutions and branches of those institutions.

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

21 C. The legislative lottery scholarships authorized
22 in this section shall also apply to full-time resident students
23 who, immediately upon completion of a high school curriculum at
24 a public or accredited private New Mexico high school or upon
25 receiving a graduate equivalent diploma, attend a two-year

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

10 D. The legislative lottery scholarships authorized
11 in this section shall also apply to full-time resident students
12 who:

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

18 (2) within one ~~[hundred twenty days]~~ year of
19 completion of honorable service or medical discharge from the
20 service ~~[are accepted for entrance to and]~~ attend one of the
21 state educational institutions set forth in this section.

22 E. The higher education department shall prepare
23 guidelines setting forth explicit student continuing
24 eligibility criteria and guidelines for administration of the
25 legislative lottery scholarship program. Guidelines shall be

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1 distributed to the board of regents of each institution to
2 enable a uniform availability of the resident student
3 legislative lottery scholarships.

4 F. For purposes of the legislative lottery
5 scholarship program as it applies to students with disabilities
6 who may require special accommodations, the higher education
7 department, in consultation with the student and the office at
8 the institution that serves students with disabilities, shall
9 review both the definition of "full time" and the maximum
10 number of consecutive semesters of eligibility and adjust
11 either or both as deemed reasonable and appropriate, based on
12 the student's disability needs. In no case, however, shall
13 "full time" mean fewer than six credit hours per semester and
14 in no case shall eligibility extend beyond fourteen consecutive
15 semesters."

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