

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: HM 72

50th Legislature, 1st Session, 2011

Tracking Number: .186707.2

Short Title: Study Lottery Scholarships at Tribal Colleges

Sponsor(s): Representatives Sandra D. Jeff, Bill B. O'Neill, and James Roger Madelena, and Others

Analyst: Ally Hudson

Date: March 17, 2011

Bill Summary:

HM 72 requests that the Legislative Council Service appoint a task force to study the feasibility of permitting undergraduate students choosing to attend a tribal colleges in New Mexico to be eligible for the Legislative Lottery Scholarship.

The memorial further requests that the task force:

- include members of:
 - the interim legislative committee that studies Indian affairs;
 - the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC);
 - the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC);
 - the Higher Education Department (HED);
 - the Indian Affairs Department; and
 - each of the tribal colleges; and
- report its findings and recommendations to the interim legislative committee that studies Indian affairs, the LESC, and the LFC by October 1, 2011.

Fiscal Impact:

Legislative memorials do not carry appropriations.

Background:

Created by legislation enacted in 1996, the Legislative Lottery Scholarship is a renewable, full-tuition award granted to qualifying students beginning in their second semester at a public postsecondary institution in New Mexico and continuing for seven more consecutive semesters. The scholarship covers the cost of tuition only. Students are responsible for additional educational expenses such as student fees, course materials, and housing.

To qualify for the Legislative Lottery Scholarship a student must:

- be a New Mexico resident;

- have graduated from a New Mexico public or accredited private school or have obtained a New Mexico general educational development (GED) certificate;
- enroll full-time (in at least 12 credit hours) at an eligible New Mexico public college or university, in the first regular semester immediately following high school graduation; and
- obtain and maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.5.

State law also provides for specific accommodations with regard to:

- students with disabilities, clarifying that in no case shall “full time” mean fewer than six credit hours per semester and in no case shall eligibility extend beyond 14 consecutive semesters;
- students whose parents are in the military, allowing a New Mexico resident high school student whose military parents are transferred out of state to receive a New Mexico high school diploma, under certain conditions, and thereby become eligible for state-funded financial aid; and
- individuals that either immediately enlist in, or have recently departed from, the US Armed Forces.

In a report to the LESC in December 2010, testimony indicated that, since its inception, the New Mexico Lottery has raised \$459 million for education, and more than 68,000 students have attended college on lottery scholarships.

In 2010, HED formed a Lottery Study Committee to consider strategies to address the status of the Lottery Tuition Fund, increasing enrollments at the state’s public postsecondary institutions, and rising tuition. Because the fund is expending more money than the annual revenues currently provide, HED’s analysis indicates that the Lottery Study Committee is working to analyze data from two- and four-year institutions to determine whether changes to the Legislative Lottery Scholarship eligibility criteria should be made.

Related Bills:

- HB 62 Extend Lottery Scholarship Application Time*
- HB 92 Lottery Scholarships for Tribal Colleges*
- HB 359a Lottery Scholarship Recipient Additions*
- HB 562 Lottery Scholarship Regulations*
- HB 601 Lottery Scholarships at Tribal Colleges*
- *CS/SB 226 Enact “Legislative Lottery Tuition Act”*
- SB 292 Limit Tuition Increase for Lottery Recipients*