

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
BILL ANALYSIS**

**Bill Number:** HM 93

**52nd Legislature, 1st Session, 2015**

**Tracking Number:** .199563.1

**Short Title:** Year-Round Legislative Lottery Scholarship

**Sponsor(s):** Representative Jason C. Harper

**Analyst:** Travis Dulany

**Date:** March 3, 2015

---

**Bill Summary:**

HM 93 requests that the Secretary of Higher Education convene and chair a task force to study the feasibility of implementing a year-round Legislative Lottery Tuition Scholarship program.

Among its provisions, the memorial requests that the task force:

- compile reports of collected data on the possible effect of a year-round scholarship program on the provision of additional opportunities for students pursuing higher education in New Mexico; and
- provide a report and present its findings and recommendations to the appropriate interim committee by November 1, 2015.

**Fiscal Impact:**

Legislative memorials do not carry appropriations.

**Fiscal Issues:**

Memorials requesting the formation of a task force are likely to have some form of fiscal impact in terms of staff time, travel, and office supplies.

**Substantive Issues:**

As noted by the Higher Education Department (HED) and New Mexico Independent Community Colleges, the year-round legislative lottery scholarship suggested in HM 93 would allow students to graduate sooner. As tuition costs tend to rise year-over-year, earlier degree completion may provide savings to the Lottery Tuition Fund over time.

## *Statute*

Under provisions in current law:

- legacy students<sup>1</sup> may receive the scholarship for up to eight semesters;
- qualified students (non-legacy) students may receive the scholarship for up to seven semesters;
- funding for students at community colleges is provided for three semesters, although community college students may transfer to a four-year institution after completing three program semesters and receive the scholarship for the full seven semesters; and
- for students with disabilities who may require accommodations, HED, in consultation with the student and the office at the postsecondary educational institution that serves students with disabilities, is required to review the maximum number of consecutive semesters of eligibility and make adjustments as deemed reasonable and appropriate based on the student's disability needs; however, students with disabilities must carry at least six credit hours per semesters, and eligibility may not extend beyond 14 consecutive semesters.

A year-round scholarship would provide for summer courses, which, according to the memorial, would allow students to graduate sooner.

## **Background:**

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

Under the newly enacted *Legislative Lottery Tuition Scholarship Act*, a student must:

- maintain residency in New Mexico;
- have graduated from a public or accredited private New Mexico high school or have obtained a New Mexico High School Equivalency Credential while maintaining New Mexico residency;
- enroll full-time (in at least 15 credit hours, or 12 credit hours for legacy students and community college students) at an eligible New Mexico postsecondary educational institution immediately upon graduation; and
- attain and maintain a GPA of at least 2.5.

State law also provides for specific accommodations with regard to:

- students with disabilities; and
- individuals who either immediately enlist in, or have recently departed from, the US Armed Forces.

---

<sup>1</sup> As defined in the *Legislative Lottery Tuition Scholarship Act*, a legacy student is a full-time resident student who had received the Legislative Lottery Tuition Scholarship for three or more program semesters by the end of FY 14 pursuant to the former provisions of the scholarship program.

**Committee Referrals:**

HEC/HAFC

**Related Bills:**

HB 375 *Branch Colleges in Tuition Scholarship*  
HB 429 *Lottery Scholarships for Home School*  
HB 460 *Study Lottery Tuition Recipient Mentoring*  
HM 112 *Tuition Scholarship Amounts & Notices*  
SB 286 *Forfeited Lottery Prizes to Tuition Fund*  
SB 521 *Lottery Scholarships for Home School*  
SB 657 *Lottery Scholarship as Full Scholarship*  
SM 108 *Tuition Scholarship Amounts & Notices*