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AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; EXPANDING THE BENEFITS AND
SCHOOL OPTIONS FOR RECIPIENTS OF THE FIRE FIGHTER AND PEACE
OFFICER SURVIVORS SCHOLARSHIP.

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

SECTION 1. Section 21-21F-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1986,
Chapter 50, Section 3) is amended to read:

"21-21F-3. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Fire Fighter
and Peace Officer Survivors Scholarship Act:

A. "board" or "department" means the higher
education department;

B. "cost of attendance" means the price of
attendance, the publication of which is required by federal
law, and includes tuition and fees, books and supplies, room
and board, transportation and any additional costs for a
program in which a student is enrolled;

C. "eligible institution" means any public
institution of higher education in any state in the United
States;

D. "fire fighter" means any member of a fire
department that is part of or administered by the state or
any political subdivision of the state;

E. "peace officer" means any member of a police or
sheriff's department that is part of or administered by the

1 state or any political subdivision of the state and officers
2 in the corrections department;

3 F. "research institution" means the university of
4 New Mexico, New Mexico state university or New Mexico
5 institute of mining and technology; and

6 G. "survivor" means the spouse of the fire fighter
7 or peace officer killed in the line of duty and any adopted
8 or natural children twenty-one years of age or under at the
9 time of the fire fighter's or peace officer's death."

10 SECTION 2. Section 21-21F-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1986,
11 Chapter 50, Section 4) is amended to read:

12 "21-21F-4. ELIGIBILITY.--

13 A. A survivor meeting entrance requirements shall
14 be entitled to a scholarship to the eligible institution of
15 the survivor's choice.

16 B. If the eligible institution is in New Mexico,
17 the amount of the scholarship shall be equal to the amount of
18 tuition, room and board charged by the institution attended.
19 If the eligible institution is not in New Mexico, the amount
20 of the scholarship shall not exceed the average cost of
21 attendance at New Mexico research institutions.

22 C. The scholarship shall continue for such time as
23 the recipient remains a student in good standing at the
24 institution, but in no event shall any survivor receive a
25 scholarship for more than six years."

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SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 2018.
