

1 SENATE BILL 255

2 **54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2020**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Gabriel Ramos

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; EXPANDING TEACHER PREPARATION
12 AFFORDABILITY SCHOLARSHIPS TO INCLUDE PERSONS WHO ATTEND A
13 NONPROFIT ONLINE UNIVERSITY.

14
15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

16 SECTION 1. Section 21-210-1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2019,
17 Chapter 193, Section 7) is amended to read:

18 "21-210-1. SHORT TITLE.--~~[Sections 7 through 14 of this~~
19 ~~act]~~ Chapter 21, Article 210 NMSA 1978 may be cited as the
20 "Teacher Preparation Affordability Act"."

21 SECTION 2. Section 21-210-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2019,
22 Chapter 193, Section 8) is amended to read:

23 "21-210-2. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Teacher
24 Preparation Affordability Act:

25 A. "department" means the higher education

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1 department;

2 B. "eligible student" means a New Mexico resident
3 who is enrolled or enrolling at least half-time in an
4 accredited public education department-approved teacher
5 preparation program at a New Mexico public post-secondary
6 educational institution, ~~[or]~~ a tribal college or the online
7 university at any time later than one hundred twenty days
8 following high school graduation or the award of a high school
9 equivalency credential and who is pursuing a teaching degree;

10 C. "online university" means a nonprofit online
11 post-secondary educational institution founded by the western
12 governors' association, of which New Mexico is a member, and at
13 which all courses are offered online using a competency-based
14 learning model and that is regionally accredited by the
15 northwest commission on colleges and universities and
16 nationally accredited by the national council for accreditation
17 of teacher education and the council for the accreditation of
18 educator preparation;

19 ~~[G-]~~ D. "scholarship" means a teacher preparation
20 affordability scholarship; and

21 ~~[D-]~~ E. "tribal college" means a tribally,
22 federally or congressionally chartered tribal post-secondary
23 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 SECTION 3. Section 21-210-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2019,
2 Chapter 193, Section 10) is amended to read:

3 "21-210-4. SCHOLARSHIP AUTHORIZED--ADMINISTRATION--
4 PREFERENCE IN SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS.--

5 A. The department shall administer the Teacher
6 Preparation Affordability Act and shall promulgate rules to
7 carry out the provisions of that act.

8 B. Scholarships shall be awarded to qualified
9 eligible students. Qualifications shall be determined by rule
10 of the department.

11 C. The department shall allocate money to public
12 post-secondary educational institutions, [~~and~~] tribal colleges
13 and the online university based on a student need formula
14 calculated according to income reported on the free application
15 for federal student aid, on the number of students enrolled in
16 each public education department-approved teacher preparation
17 program at a New Mexico public post-secondary educational
18 institution or tribal college or the online university and on
19 the percentage of the teacher preparation program's students
20 classified as returning adults who are otherwise ineligible for
21 state financial aid.

22 D. Public post-secondary educational institutions,
23 [~~and~~] tribal colleges and the online university shall make
24 awards to qualifying eligible students based on financial need
25 in an amount not to exceed six thousand dollars (\$6,000) per

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1 year for not more than five years as determined by rule of the
2 department.

3 E. Public post-secondary educational institutions,
4 [~~and~~] tribal colleges and the online university shall make
5 awards first to qualifying eligible students who:

- 6 (1) are English language learners;
7 (2) are minority students; or
8 (3) have declared intent to teach in a high-
9 need teacher position as defined by the public education
10 department.

11 F. After scholarships have been awarded to eligible
12 students pursuant to Subsection E of this section, a public
13 post-secondary educational institution or tribal college or the
14 online university shall award scholarships to other eligible
15 students as determined by department rule.

16 G. Money for the scholarship shall be placed in an
17 account at the public post-secondary educational institution
18 or tribal college or the online university in the name of the
19 eligible student, and the money may be drawn upon to pay
20 educational expenses charged by the institution, including
21 tuition, fees, books and course supplies, and living expenses."

22 SECTION 4. Section 21-210-5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2019,
23 Chapter 193, Section 11) is amended to read:

24 "21-210-5. DURATION OF SCHOLARSHIP.--Each scholarship is
25 for a period of one semester or its equivalent. A scholarship

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1 may be renewed as long as the eligible student continues to
2 meet the conditions of eligibility, until the eligible student
3 graduates from a public post-secondary educational institution
4 or tribal college or the online university."

5 SECTION 5. Section 21-210-6 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2019,
6 Chapter 193, Section 12) is amended to read:

7 "21-210-6. TERMINATION OF SCHOLARSHIP.--A scholarship is
8 terminated upon occurrence of one or more of the following:

9 A. the eligible student withdraws from the public
10 post-secondary educational institution or tribal college or the
11 online university or from the teacher preparation program or
12 the eligible student fails to remain at least a half-time
13 student;

14 B. the eligible student fails to achieve
15 satisfactory academic progress; or

16 C. the eligible student is in substantial
17 noncompliance with the Teacher Preparation Affordability Act or
18 the rules promulgated pursuant to that act."