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HOUSE BILL

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019

INTRODUCED BY

DISCUSSION DRAFT

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; AMENDING SECTIONS OF THE SENIOR
CITIZENS REDUCED TUITION ACT TO PROVIDE FOR GREATER ACCESS TO
REDUCED TUITION.

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

SECTION 1. Section 21-21D-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1984,
Chapter 96, Section 3) is amended to read:

"21-21D-3. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Senior Citizens
Reduced Tuition Act:

A. [~~"board"~~] "department" means the [~~board of
educational finance~~] higher education department;

B. "eligible institution" means any New Mexico
post-secondary degree-granting educational institution;

C. "reduced tuition" means that tuition charged
senior citizens at the rate of five dollars (\$5.00) per credit

underscored material = new
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1 hour, up to ~~[six]~~ ten hours per semester; and

2 D. "senior citizen" means a person age sixty-five
3 or older."

4 SECTION 2. Section 21-21D-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1984,
5 Chapter 96, Section 4) is amended to read:

6 "21-21D-4. CONDITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY.--

7 A. Reduced tuition ~~[may]~~ shall be allowed for
8 ~~[persons]~~ any individual who ~~[meet the following criteria for~~
9 ~~eligibility:~~

10 ~~A. They are residents]:~~

11 (1) is a resident of New Mexico as determined
12 by the definition of residency for tuition purposes as
13 established by the ~~[board]~~ department;

14 ~~[B. They are]~~ (2) is a senior ~~[citizens]~~
15 citizen;

16 ~~[G. They pay]~~ (3) pays any course-specific
17 fees charged for a course;

18 ~~[D. They enroll]~~ (4) enrolls at an eligible
19 institution for credit or noncredit courses; and

20 ~~[E. They have]~~ (5) has completed all course
21 prerequisites.

22 B. The department shall not restrict, as a
23 condition of eligibility for reduced tuition, the number of
24 credit hours per semester for which an individual may enroll.
25 Regardless of the amount of credits for which an individual

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1 enrolls during a semester, the department shall provide reduced
2 tuition to any individual who meets the requirements of
3 Subsection A of this section by allowing that individual to
4 receive a maximum of ten credits at the reduced tuition rate of
5 five dollars (\$5.00) for each of those ten credits."

6 SECTION 3. Section 21-21D-5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1984,
7 Chapter 96, Section 5, as amended) is amended to read:

8 "21-21D-5. RULES ~~[AND REGULATIONS]~~.--The ~~[commission]~~
9 department may adopt ~~[such]~~ rules ~~[regulations]~~ and procedures
10 as necessary or appropriate to implement the provisions of the
11 Senior Citizens Reduced Tuition Act; provided ~~[however]~~ that
12 senior citizens enrolled at reduced tuition shall be allowed to
13 enroll in classes only on a space-available basis and that no
14 full-time equivalent credit shall be given to the eligible
15 institutions for the attendance of senior citizens in classes
16 under the provisions of the Senior Citizens Reduced Tuition
17 Act. A financial aid officer may exercise professional
18 judgment when special circumstances exist to adjust cost of
19 attendance or expected family contribution or to modify other
20 factors that make the program responsive to a student's special
21 financial circumstances and for which documentation exists in
22 the student's file within the parameters authorized for this
23 program."