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HOUSE BILL 254

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION,
2000**

INTRODUCED BY

Judy Vanderstar Russell

AN ACT

RELATING TO LOTTERY TUITION FUND SCHOLARSHIPS; EXTENDING
SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY TO CERTAIN PERSONS WHOSE ENROLLMENT
IS DELAYED DUE TO RELIGIOUS MISSIONARY SERVICE.

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

Section 1. Section 21-1-4.3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1996,
Chapter 71, Section 3, as amended) is amended to read:

"21-1-4.3. TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS AUTHORIZED--CERTAIN
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.--

A. To the extent that funds are made available by
the legislature from the lottery tuition fund, the boards of
regents of New Mexico state university, New Mexico institute
of mining and technology, eastern New Mexico university,
western New Mexico university, the university of New Mexico,
New Mexico highlands university and northern New Mexico state
school shall award tuition scholarships for qualified

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1 resident students attending their respective institutions and
2 branches of those institutions.

3 B. Except as authorized in Subsection C or D of
4 this section, the tuition scholarships authorized in this
5 section shall apply only to full-time resident students who,
6 immediately upon completion of a high school curriculum at a
7 public or accredited private New Mexico high school or upon
8 receiving a graduate equivalent diploma, are accepted for
9 entrance to and attend one of the state educational
10 institutions set forth in this section or one of the branches
11 of those institutions. Each tuition scholarship shall be
12 awarded for up to four consecutive years beginning the second
13 semester of the recipient's first year of enrollment;
14 provided that the recipient has maintained residency in New
15 Mexico and maintained a grade point average of 2.5 or higher
16 on a 4.0 scale during his first semester of full-time
17 enrollment.

18 C. The tuition scholarships authorized in this
19 section shall also apply to full-time resident students who,
20 immediately upon completion of a high school curriculum at a
21 public or accredited private New Mexico high school or upon
22 receiving a graduate equivalent diploma, attend a two-year
23 public post-secondary educational institution in New Mexico
24 and who, upon the completion of that curriculum or at the end
25 of two years, whichever is sooner, transfer to one of the
post-secondary state educational institutions set forth in
this section. Those students shall be eligible for a tuition

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1 scholarship for two consecutive years; provided that those
2 students maintain residency in New Mexico, maintain a grade
3 point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale and attend the
4 institution full time during the regular academic year.

5 D. The tuition scholarships authorized in this
6 section shall also apply to full-time resident students who:

7 (1) within one hundred twenty days of
8 completion of a high school curriculum at a public or
9 accredited private New Mexico high school, or of receiving a
10 graduate equivalent diploma, begin service in the United
11 States armed forces or begin a specified term of religious
12 missionary service; and

13 (2) within one hundred twenty days of
14 completion of honorable service in the United States armed
15 forces or medical discharge from the United States armed
16 forces or completion of a specified term of religious
17 missionary service are accepted for entrance to and attend
18 one of the state educational institutions set forth in this
19 section.

20 E. The commission on higher education shall
21 prepare guidelines setting forth explicit student continuing
22 eligibility criteria and guidelines for administration of the
23 tuition scholarship program. Guidelines shall be distributed
24 to the board of regents of each institution to enable a
25 uniform availability of the resident student tuition
scholarships."

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