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SENATE BILL 253

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

INTRODUCED BY  
Stuart Ingle

AN ACT

RELATING TO TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS; LIMITING TUITION INCREASES  
FOR TUITION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS.

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  
resident students attending their respective institutions and

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1 branches of those institutions.

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

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

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1 students maintain residency in New Mexico, maintain a grade  
2 point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale and attend the  
3 institution full time during the regular academic year.

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

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

11 (2) within one hundred twenty days of  
12 completion of honorable service or medical discharge from the  
13 service are accepted for entrance to and attend one of the  
14 state educational institutions set forth in this section.

15 E. The board of regents of an institution of  
16 higher learning named in Subsection A of this section shall  
17 not increase the tuition of a student from that in effect for  
18 the semester in which the student first receives a tuition  
19 scholarship pursuant to this section as long as the student  
20 remains at the institution and continues to be eligible for  
21 the tuition scholarship.

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

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1 scholarships."

2 Section 2. Section 21-13-10 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1963,  
3 Chapter 17, Section 9, as amended) is amended to read:

4 "21-13-10. BOARD DUTIES.--

5 A. It [~~shall be~~] is the duty of the community  
6 college board to determine financial and educational policies  
7 of the community college. The community college board shall  
8 provide for the management of the community college and  
9 execution of these policies by selecting a competent presi-  
10 dent for the community college, and, upon the president's  
11 recommendation, the board shall employ other administrative  
12 personnel, instructional staff or other personnel as may be  
13 needed for the operation, maintenance and administration of  
14 the community college.

15 B. The community college board shall have the  
16 power to fix tuition and fee rates for resident and  
17 nonresident students of the district, to accept gifts, to  
18 accept federal aid, to purchase, hold, sell and rent property  
19 and equipment and to promote the general welfare of the  
20 institution for the best interest of educational service to  
21 the people of the community college district.

22 C. To the extent that funds are made available by  
23 the legislature from the lottery tuition fund, the community  
24 college board shall award tuition scholarships for qualified  
25 resident students attending their respective institutions.

D. The tuition scholarships authorized in this  
section shall apply only to full-time resident students who,

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1 immediately upon completion of a high school curriculum at a  
2 public or accredited private New Mexico high school or upon  
3 receiving a graduate equivalent diploma, are accepted for  
4 entrance to and attend a community college. Each tuition  
5 scholarship shall be awarded for up to two consecutive years  
6 beginning the second semester of the recipient's first year  
7 of enrollment; provided that the recipient has maintained  
8 residency in New Mexico and maintained a grade-point average  
9 of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale during his first semester of  
10 full-time enrollment. The community college board shall not  
11 increase the tuition of a student from that in effect for the  
12 semester in which the student first receives a tuition  
13 scholarship pursuant to this section as long as the student  
14 remains at the institution and continues to be eligible for  
15 the tuition scholarship.

16 E. The commission on higher education shall  
17 prepare guidelines setting forth explicit student continuing  
18 eligibility criteria and guidelines for administration of the  
19 tuition scholarship program. Guidelines shall be distributed  
20 to community college boards to enable a uniform availability  
21 of the resident student tuition scholarship."

22 Section 3. Section 21-16-10.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws  
23 1996, Chapter 71, Section 6, as amended) is amended to read:

24 "21-16-10.1. TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS AUTHORIZED.--

25 A. To the extent that funds are made available by  
the legislature from the lottery tuition fund, the board of a  
technical and vocational institute shall award tuition

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1 scholarships for qualified resident students attending a  
2 technical and vocational institute.

3 B. The tuition scholarships authorized in this  
4 section shall apply only to full-time resident students who,  
5 immediately upon completion of a high school curriculum at a  
6 public or accredited private New Mexico high school or upon  
7 receiving a graduate equivalent diploma, are accepted for  
8 entrance to and attend a technical and vocational institute.  
9 Each tuition scholarship shall be awarded for up to two  
10 consecutive years beginning the second semester of the  
11 recipient's first year of enrollment; provided that the  
12 recipient has maintained residency in New Mexico and  
13 maintained a grade-point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0  
14 scale during his first semester of full-time enrollment with  
15 renewal of an additional two years upon transfer. The board  
16 of the technical and vocational institute shall not increase  
17 the tuition of a student from that in effect for the semester  
18 in which the student first receives a tuition scholarship  
19 pursuant to this section as long as the student remains at  
20 the institution and continues to be eligible for the tuition  
21 scholarship.

22 C. The commission on higher education shall  
23 prepare guidelines setting forth explicit student continuing  
24 eligibility criteria and guidelines for administration of the  
25 tuition scholarship program. Guidelines shall be distributed  
to the boards of technical and vocational institutes to  
enable a uniform availability of the resident student tuition

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