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SENATE BILL 340

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002

INTRODUCED BY

Timothy Z. Jennings

AN ACT

RELATING TO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION; INCREASING THE PERIOD FOR WHICH STUDENTS AT CERTAIN INSTITUTIONS MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS FUNDED BY THE LOTTERY TUITION FUND.

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

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1 school shall award tuition scholarships for qualified resident
2 students attending their respective institutions and branches
3 of those institutions.

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

19 C. The tuition scholarships authorized in this
20 section shall also apply to full-time resident students who,
21 immediately upon completion of a high school curriculum at a
22 public or accredited private New Mexico high school or upon
23 receiving a graduate equivalent diploma, attend a two-year
24 public post-secondary educational institution in New Mexico
25 and who, upon the completion of that curriculum or at the end

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1 of [~~two~~] three years, whichever is sooner, transfer to one of
2 the post-secondary state educational institutions set forth in
3 this section. Those students shall be eligible for a tuition
4 scholarship for two consecutive years, provided that those
5 students maintain residency in New Mexico, maintain a grade
6 point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale and attend the
7 institution full time during the regular academic year.

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

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

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

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

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

3 "21-13-10. BOARD DUTIES. --

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

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

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

25 All other scholarship funds available to the board shall be

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1 used before granting any lottery tuition scholarships.

2 D. The tuition scholarships authorized in this
3 section shall apply only to full-time resident students who,
4 immediately upon completion of a high school curriculum at a
5 public or accredited private New Mexico high school or upon
6 receiving a graduate equivalent diploma, are accepted for
7 entrance to and attend a community college. Each tuition
8 scholarship shall be awarded for up to ~~two~~ three consecutive
9 years beginning the second semester of the recipient's first
10 year of enrollment, provided that the recipient has maintained
11 residency in New Mexico and maintained a grade-point average
12 of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale during his first semester of
13 full-time enrollment.

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

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

22 "21-16-10.1. TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS AUTHORIZED. --

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

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1 scholarships for qualified resident students attending a
2 technical and vocational institute. All other scholarship
3 funds available to the board shall be used before granting any
4 lottery tuition scholarships.

5 B. The tuition scholarships authorized in this
6 section shall apply only to full-time resident students who,
7 immediately upon completion of a high school curriculum at a
8 public or accredited private New Mexico high school or upon
9 receiving a graduate equivalent diploma, are accepted for
10 entrance to and attend a technical and vocational institute.
11 Each tuition scholarship shall be awarded for up to [~~two~~]
12 three consecutive years beginning the second semester of the
13 recipient's first year of enrollment, provided that the
14 recipient has maintained residency in New Mexico and
15 maintained a grade-point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0
16 scale during his first semester of full-time enrollment with
17 renewal of an additional two years upon transfer.

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