

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: CS/HB 280

51st Legislature, 1st Session, 2013

Tracking Number: .192568.1

Short Title: Gen. Richard T. Knowles Scholarship Program

Sponsor(s): Representative Jimmie C. Hall and Others

Analyst: Travis Dulany

Date: March 7, 2013

HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL 280

Bill Summary:

CS/HB 280 makes an appropriation for the purpose of supporting the General Richard T. Knowles Scholarship Program.

Fiscal Impact:

\$500,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Legislative Scholarship Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall **not** revert. The appropriation from CS/HB 280 is made in addition to the recurring annual appropriation from the General Fund (see "Fiscal Issues," below).

Fiscal Issues:

- According to New Mexico Military Institute (NMMI), the Legislature has made General Fund appropriations to the scholarship program since FY 06:

FY	Appropriation
2006	\$463,800
2007	\$788,800
2008	\$912,700
2009	\$889,900
2010	\$853,500
2011	\$809,400
2012	\$792,800
2013	\$792,800

- The FY 14 Legislative Finance Committee recommendation for the General Fund appropriation to the scholarship is \$842,800, an approximate 6.3 percent increase from FY 12 and FY 13.
- Because the four-year scholarship is available to 112 students each year, a maximum of 448 scholarships may be available at any given time; however, NMMI currently awards an average of 180 scholarships per year.

- NMMI anticipates that, with enrollment increasing, approximately 250 eligible scholarship recipients will enroll at NMMI during a given school year, requiring an estimated minimum annual appropriation of \$1.2 million in order to sustain the scholarship award.

Substantive Issues:

The General Richard T. Knowles Legislative Scholarship Program awards scholarships to New Mexico residents who attend NMMI. According to NMMI, the renewable scholarship is a determining factor for the majority of students in deciding whether to attend NMMI.

Background:

The General Richard T. Knowles Legislative Scholarship Program:

- was enacted in statute in 1989 in order to increase the number of New Mexico residents attending NMMI and to increase the opportunity for promising young people who might not otherwise have the opportunity to participate in a military education (Chapter 44);
- was originally named the Legislator Scholarship Program until amended in 1998;
- is available to 112 New Mexico residents annually (one scholarship for each state legislative district);
- operates via a nomination process whereby each state legislator may submit the names of four prospective scholarship recipients to the Board of Regents of NMMI;
- is administered by NMMI;
- awards scholarships to qualifying New Mexico residents for a term not to exceed four years;
- covers the cost of tuition and fees and an amount applied toward other expenses if sufficient funding is available;
- utilizes the following criteria for selection of scholarship awards:
 - scholastic ability;
 - faculty recommendations;
 - standardized test scores;
 - letters of recommendation;
 - school honors; and
 - extracurricular activities; and
- was expanded in 2009 to provide that,

“[i]n the event no applicant is available by July 1 of each year from either the legislator’s district or a contiguous district, the scholarship may be awarded to any of the qualified nominees from any state legislative district.”

General Richard T. Knowles:

- was presented with the Army Distinguished Service Medal for “exceptionally meritorious and distinguished services to the Government of the United States in a duty of great responsibility, during the period from November 1966 to May 1967”;

- served as assistant commander of the First Air Calvary during the Vietnam War; and
- achieved the rank of Major General during his service in the US Army.

Committee Referrals:

HEC/HAFC

Related Bills:

CS/SB 100 *Gen. Richard T. Knowles Scholarship Program*