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HOUSE BILL 460

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

INTRODUCED BY

Patricio Ruiloba

AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROJECT TO DETERMINE THE EFFICACY OF HAVING LEGISLATIVE LOTTERY TUITION SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS PERFORM COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND MENTOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS AND OTHER COLLEGE STUDENTS.

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

SECTION 1. Section 21-21N-1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2014, Chapter 80, Section 1) is amended to read:

"21-21N-1. SHORT TITLE.--~~[Sections 1 through 6 of this act]~~ Chapter 21, Article 21N NMSA 1978 may be cited as the "Legislative Lottery Tuition Scholarship Act"."

SECTION 2. A new section of the Legislative Lottery Tuition Scholarship Act is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] LOTTERY STUDENT COMMUNITY OUTREACH PILOT PROJECT--TUITION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS--ADDITIONAL

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1 REQUIREMENTS--MENTORING--TRAINING.--

2 A. The "lottery student community outreach pilot
3 project" is created as a six-year study that encourages
4 students who receive a tuition scholarship pursuant to the
5 Legislative Lottery Tuition Scholarship Act at participating
6 public post-secondary educational institutions to volunteer to
7 provide community outreach, chiefly through mentoring public
8 school students. Tuition scholarship students are not required
9 to participate to maintain their tuition scholarship. The
10 purpose of the pilot project is to demonstrate that:

11 (1) both mentors and mentees receive similar
12 benefits, including improved grades and on-time graduation and
13 a renewed sense of confidence, purpose and community and civic
14 engagement;

15 (2) this service improves the community in
16 which the student volunteer works and the public school student
17 lives;

18 (3) mentoring by young adults can help
19 disadvantaged public school students narrow the achievement
20 gap; improve cognitive, social and behavioral skills; and lead
21 to higher test scores and success in school; and

22 (4) mentoring can also help the student
23 volunteer improve the student volunteer's skills, test scores
24 and success in college and inculcate civic and social
25 engagement in community life.

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1 B. The pilot project shall be administered by the
2 department and shall be conducted with at least three public
3 post-secondary educational institutions around the state,
4 ideally with at least one from the research institutions, at
5 least one from the comprehensive universities and at least one
6 from the branch and independent community colleges and with at
7 least five hundred tuition scholarship students. Preference
8 for the pilot project shall be given to institutions in areas
9 with high poverty rates and in public schools with eighty-five
10 percent or more of the students eligible for free or reduced-
11 fee lunch and high English language learner populations. The
12 department may expand the pilot project during its term to more
13 participants.

14 C. The department shall certify a list of nonprofit
15 community- and education-oriented organizations that maintain
16 relationships with public schools with which student volunteers
17 may work. The organizations shall identify public schools in
18 their areas that are interested in having mentors and shall
19 develop a mentoring training program for student volunteers.
20 The organizations shall also identify community-based outreach
21 or specific community-based projects appropriate for students
22 in their first program semester or students unable to mentor
23 during the school year.

24 D. A participating community- and education-
25 oriented organization shall monitor and evaluate the work of

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1 the student volunteers and the time spent mentoring or
2 participating in community-based projects as well as the
3 progress of the public school students being mentored.

4 E. The department shall determine application
5 requirements and procedures for public post-secondary
6 educational institutions, nonprofit community- and education-
7 oriented organizations and student volunteers to apply for the
8 pilot project, criteria to evaluate applications and
9 quantitative and qualitative measures of the pilot project's
10 efficacy.

11 F. In addition to other requirements and
12 qualifications in the Legislative Lottery Tuition Scholarship
13 Act, a tuition scholarship student who participates in the
14 pilot project shall provide at least two hours per week of
15 community outreach with public school students in the area of
16 the public post-secondary educational institution the student
17 attends. The community outreach shall consist of:

- 18 (1) partnering with community-based
19 organizations and assisting with community-based projects;
20 (2) mentoring public school students; or
21 (3) mentoring first-year college students.

22 G. The following schedule of community outreach for
23 student volunteers is:

- 24 (1) students in their first program semester
25 shall partner with a community-based organization to assist it

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1 in community outreach or specific community-based projects;

2 (2) students in their sophomore and junior
3 years shall mentor students in grades kindergarten through
4 twelve; and

5 (3) students in their senior year shall mentor
6 freshmen college students.

7 H. If a tuition scholarship student who wants to
8 participate is unable to perform the community outreach service
9 during the school year because of class load, work requirements
10 or other reasons, the student volunteer may volunteer for an
11 approved community outreach project that will be available for
12 the student to participate in during semester breaks or the
13 summer for a total of at least thirty-two hours.

14 I. Public schools that choose to participate in the
15 pilot project shall identify willing students who would benefit
16 from participation. The student's teacher or school principal
17 shall work with the nonprofit organization and the student
18 volunteer to determine what activities and types of engagement
19 would benefit the mentee student.

20 J. The department shall establish reporting and
21 evaluation requirements for all participants in the pilot
22 project. The department shall provide interim and final
23 reports annually to the governor and the legislature.

24 K. The participating public post-secondary
25 educational institutions, nonprofit community- and education-

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1 oriented organizations and public schools shall actively seek
2 public and private grants and donations for any costs of the
3 pilot project. Grants and donations shall be kept and expended
4 as other grants and donations of the institution, organization
5 or public school."

6 SECTION 3. APPLICABILITY.--The provisions of this act
7 apply to the fall 2016 and subsequent semesters of the lottery
8 student community outreach pilot project's term.

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