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SENATE BILL 179

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019

INTRODUCED BY

Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics

AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; ALLOWING CERTAIN STUDENTS WITH
DISABILITIES TO RECEIVE LEGISLATIVE LOTTERY TUITION
SCHOLARSHIPS.

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

SECTION 1. Section 21-21N-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2014,
Chapter 80, Section 3, as amended) is amended to read:

"21-21N-3. TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS AUTHORIZED--QUALIFIED
STUDENTS.--

A. To the extent that funds are made available by
the legislature from the fund, the boards of regents or
governing bodies of public post-secondary educational
institutions shall award tuition scholarships in department-
approved amounts to qualified students and legacy students
attending their respective public post-secondary educational

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1 institutions.

2 B. Beginning in fiscal year 2015:

3 (1) a legacy student is eligible to receive a
4 tuition scholarship until the total number of program semesters
5 for which the legislative lottery scholarship is received
6 pursuant to the former provisions of Sections 21-1-4.3,
7 21-13-10 and 21-16-10.1 NMSA 1978 or the Legislative Lottery
8 Tuition Scholarship Act reaches eight; provided that the legacy
9 student maintains residency in New Mexico, maintains a grade
10 point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale and completes
11 twelve or more credit hours per program semester; and

12 (2) a qualified student who is not a legacy
13 student is eligible to receive the tuition scholarship for a
14 maximum of seven program semesters and in an amount determined
15 pursuant to the provisions of Section 21-21N-4 NMSA 1978.

16 C. Except as otherwise provided in this section, a
17 tuition scholarship may be awarded to a qualified student who:

18 (1) maintains residency in New Mexico;

19 (2) maintains a grade point average of 2.5 or
20 higher on a 4.0 scale; and

21 (3) completes:

22 (a) for a student attending a four-year
23 public post-secondary educational institution, fifteen or more
24 credit hours per program semester; and

25 (b) for a student attending a two-year

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1 public post-secondary educational institution, twelve or more
2 credit hours per program semester.

3 D. For students with disabilities who may require
4 accommodations, the department, in consultation with the
5 student and the office at the public post-secondary educational
6 institution that serves students with disabilities, shall
7 review both the definition of "full time" and the maximum
8 number of consecutive program semesters of eligibility and
9 adjust either or both as deemed reasonable and appropriate,
10 based on the student's disability needs. In no case, however,
11 shall "full time" mean fewer than six credit hours per
12 semester, and in no case shall eligibility extend beyond
13 fourteen consecutive program semesters. The definition of
14 "qualified student" notwithstanding, a New Mexico resident who
15 had to leave the state to receive an education pursuant to the
16 federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act shall be
17 eligible for a tuition scholarship if the student graduated
18 from an accredited high school in another state and otherwise
19 meets the qualifications for a tuition scholarship pursuant to
20 the definition of "qualified student" and this section."