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SENATE BILL 251

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

INTRODUCED BY

George K. Munoz

AN ACT

RELATING TO CHILDREN; AMENDING A SECTION OF CHAPTER 21, ARTICLE
1 NMSA 1978 TO PROVIDE FOSTER CHILDREN GREATER ACCESS TO
TUITION AND FEE WAIVERS AT STATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

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

SECTION 1. Section 21-1-4.7 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2014,
Chapter 62, Section 1) is amended to read:

"21-1-4.7. FOSTER CHILD TUITION AND FEE WAIVER
ELIGIBILITY--NOTIFICATION.--

A. The state educational institutions set forth in
Article 12, Section 11 of the constitution of New Mexico and
their branches, community colleges as provided in Chapter 21,
Article 13 NMSA 1978 and technical and vocational institutes as
provided in Chapter 21, Article 16 NMSA 1978 shall not charge
tuition or fees pursuant to Section 21-1-4 NMSA 1978 to a

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1 student [~~(1)~~] for whom the children, youth and families
2 department provides certification that the student was in the
3 legal custody of the children, youth and families department
4 pursuant to the Children's Code or for whom a New Mexico Indian
5 nation, tribe or pueblo or the United States department of the
6 interior bureau of Indian affairs division of human services
7 provides certification that the student was in the legal
8 custody of a New Mexico Indian nation, tribe or pueblo or the
9 United States department of the interior bureau of Indian
10 affairs division of human services [~~(a) on the day preceding~~
11 ~~the student's eighteenth birthday; (b)~~] on or after the day of
12 the student's fourteenth birthday, [~~and the student's parents'~~
13 ~~rights were relinquished or terminated at that time; or (c) on~~
14 ~~the day the student graduated from a high school in the state~~
15 ~~or received a high school equivalency certificate in the state;~~
16 ~~and (2)~~] who enrolls in one of the state educational
17 institutions set forth in Article 12, Section 11 of the
18 constitution of New Mexico and their branches, community
19 colleges as provided in Chapter 21, Article 13 NMSA 1978 and
20 technical and vocational institutes as provided in Chapter 21,
21 Article 16 NMSA 1978 no later than the day of the student's
22 twenty-fifth birthday.

23 B. The higher education department shall
24 collaborate with the children, youth and families department,
25 the New Mexico Indian nations, tribes or pueblos and the United

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1 States department of the interior bureau of Indian affairs
2 division of human services to ensure that middle school and
3 high school students who are or have been in the legal custody
4 of the children, youth and families department, a New Mexico
5 Indian nation, tribe or pueblo or the United States department
6 of the interior bureau of Indian affairs division of human
7 services learn about the provisions of this section."

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