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AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; EXPANDING THE ELIGIBILITY OF  
THE TEACHER PREPARATION AFFORDABILITY ACT TO INCLUDE LICENSED  
TEACHERS; REMOVING THE REQUIREMENT THAT AN ELIGIBLE STUDENT  
BE ENROLLED AT LEAST HALF-TIME; PROVIDING TECHNICAL CLEANUP.

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

SECTION 1. Section 21-210-1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2019,  
Chapter 193, Section 7) is amended to read:

"21-210-1. SHORT TITLE.-- Chapter 21, Article 210 NMSA  
1978 may be cited as the "Teacher Preparation Affordability  
Act"."

SECTION 2. Section 21-210-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2019,  
Chapter 193, Section 8) is amended to read:

"21-210-2. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Teacher  
Preparation Affordability Act:

A. "department" means the higher education  
department;

B. "eligible student" means a New Mexico resident  
who is enrolled or enrolling in an accredited public  
education department-approved teacher preparation program at  
a New Mexico public post-secondary educational institution or  
tribal college at any time later than one hundred twenty days  
following high school graduation or the award of a high  
school equivalency credential and who is pursuing a teaching

1 degree or is a licensed teacher and is pursuing a graduate  
2 degree in education or related to their teaching speciality;

3 C. "scholarship" means a teacher preparation  
4 affordability scholarship; and

5 D. "tribal college" means a tribally, federally or  
6 congressionally chartered tribal post-secondary educational  
7 institution located in New Mexico that is accredited by the  
8 higher learning commission."

9 SECTION 3. Section 21-210-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2019,  
10 Chapter 193, Section 9) is amended to read:

11 "21-210-3. CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY.--A scholarship  
12 may be awarded to an eligible student who:

13 A. has not earned appropriate educational  
14 credentials to be licensed as a teacher by the public  
15 education department or is a licensed teacher and is pursuing  
16 a graduate degree;

17 B. has demonstrated financial need consistent with  
18 the criteria promulgated by the department; and

19 C. has complied with other rules promulgated by  
20 the department to carry out the provisions of the Teacher  
21 Preparation Affordability Act."

22 SECTION 4. Section 21-210-6 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2019,  
23 Chapter 193, Section 12) is amended to read:

24 "21-210-6. TERMINATION OF SCHOLARSHIP.--A scholarship  
25 is terminated upon occurrence of one or more of the

1 following:

2 A. the eligible student withdraws from the public  
3 post-secondary educational institution or tribal college or  
4 from the teacher preparation program;

5 B. the eligible student fails to achieve  
6 satisfactory academic progress; or

7 C. the eligible student is in substantial  
8 noncompliance with the Teacher Preparation Affordability Act  
9 or the rules promulgated pursuant to that act."

10 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the  
11 provisions of this act is July 1, 2023. \_\_\_\_\_

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