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**SENATE BILL 9**

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SPECIAL SESSION, 1999**

**INTRODUCED BY**

**Joseph J. Carraro**

**AN ACT**

**RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; AUTHORIZING PRIVATE STUDENT  
TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS.**

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

Section 1. **SHORT TITLE.** -- This act may be cited as the  
"Private Student Tuition Scholarship Act".

Section 2. **LEGISLATIVE INTENT.** -- The legislature  
recognizes that for every student eligible for public school  
who is instead educated in a non-public school or at home, the  
state is spared the cost of educating that student. The intent  
of the Private Student Tuition Scholarship Act is to recognize  
the value of the private contribution that has been made to  
the student's education by providing the student with a  
tuition scholarship for post-secondary education.

Section 3. **DEFINITIONS.** -- As used in the Private Student

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1 Tuition Scholarship Act:

2 A. "commission" means the commission on higher  
3 education;

4 B. "eligible institution" means any public post-  
5 secondary educational institution in New Mexico;

6 C. "eligible student" means a New Mexico resident  
7 under the age of twenty-four who has completed one or more  
8 years of qualifying private education; and

9 D. "qualifying private education" means elementary  
10 or secondary education in New Mexico that occurred after July  
11 1, 1999 at an accredited non-public school or in an approved  
12 home-school program.

13 Section 4. ELIGIBILITY.--An eligible student meeting  
14 entrance requirements shall be entitled to one full-year  
15 tuition scholarship to the eligible institution of the  
16 student's choice for each year of qualifying private education  
17 completed by the student at a time when the student was  
18 eligible for enrollment in public school in New Mexico. The  
19 scholarship shall continue for such time as the recipient  
20 remains a student in good standing at the institution, but in  
21 no event shall the student receive a scholarship for more than  
22 five years.

23 Section 5. RULES.--The commission may adopt rules  
24 necessary to implement the provisions of the Private Student  
25 Tuition Scholarship Act.