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HOUSE BILL 272

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025

INTRODUCED BY

Cathrynn N. Brown and Rod Montoya

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; ENACTING THE TRADE EDUCATION ASSISTANCE ACT; CREATING THE TRADE EDUCATION ASSISTANCE FUND; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as the "Trade Education Assistance Act".

SECTION 2. [NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Trade Education Assistance Act:

A. "department" means the higher education department; and

B. "trade education program" means a program approved by the department to train individuals to qualify for licenses or certificates of competence issued pursuant to the Construction Industries Licensing Act.

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1 SECTION 3. ~~[NEW MATERIAL]~~ STIPENDS--ELIGIBILITY--

2 AMOUNTS.--

3 A. An individual may be awarded a stipend pursuant
4 to the Trade Education Assistance Act if the individual:

5 (1) is a resident of New Mexico;

6 (2) has earned at least a high school diploma
7 or its equivalent at least two years prior to being awarded a
8 stipend but has not earned a baccalaureate degree;

9 (3) is participating in a trade education
10 program;

11 (4) claims at least one dependent on the
12 individual's federal or state income tax return and is not
13 claimed as a dependent on another individual's federal or state
14 income tax return; and

15 (5) has complied with other rules promulgated
16 by the department to carry out the provisions of the Trade
17 Education Assistance Act.

18 B. Stipends shall be awarded for periods no longer
19 than six months. Stipends may be renewed for not longer than a
20 total of two years.

21 C. A stipend may be terminated if a recipient fails
22 to satisfactorily participate in a trade education program
23 approved by the department.

24 D. Stipends may be used by recipients for living
25 expenses incurred while participating in a trade education

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1 program approved by the department.

2 E. Stipends shall not exceed thirty thousand
3 dollars (\$30,000) per calendar year.

4 SECTION 4. [NEW MATERIAL] DEPARTMENT DUTIES--RULEMAKING
5 AUTHORITY--REPORTING.--

6 A. The department shall administer the Trade
7 Education Assistance Act and shall award stipends to
8 individuals the department certifies as participating in a
9 trade education program as approved by the department.

10 B. The department shall promulgate rules as
11 necessary to implement the Trade Education Assistance Act.

12 C. The department shall report by November 1 of
13 each year to the legislative finance committee and the
14 department of finance and administration on the:

15 (1) status of the trade education assistance
16 fund;

17 (2) number of individuals who received
18 stipends in the prior fiscal year and the amount of stipends
19 received; and

20 (3) types of trade education programs approved
21 by the department and the number of stipend recipients
22 participating in each type of program in the prior calendar
23 year.

24 SECTION 5. [NEW MATERIAL] TRADE EDUCATION ASSISTANCE
25 FUND.--The "trade education assistance fund" is created as a
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1 nonreverting fund in the state treasury. The fund consists of
2 appropriations, gifts, grants, donations to the fund and income
3 from investment of the fund. The department shall administer
4 the fund, and money in the fund is appropriated to the
5 department to implement the provisions of the Trade Education
6 Assistance Act. Disbursements from the fund shall be made by
7 warrant of the secretary of finance and administration pursuant
8 to vouchers signed by the secretary of higher education or the
9 secretary's authorized representative.

10 SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION.--One hundred million dollars
11 (\$100,000,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
12 trade education assistance fund for expenditure in fiscal year
13 2026 and subsequent fiscal years for the purpose of
14 implementing the provisions of the Trade Education Assistance
15 Act. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the
16 end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund.

17 SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the
18 provisions of this act is July 1, 2025.

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