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SENATE BILL 342

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION,  
2000**

INTRODUCED BY

Joseph J. Carraro

AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; AUTHORIZING PRIVATE STUDENT  
TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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  
Tuition Scholarship Act:

.131908.1

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

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

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

8           D. "qualifying private education" means elementary  
9 or secondary education in New Mexico that occurred after July  
10 1, 2000 at an accredited non-public school or in an approved  
11 home-school program.

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

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

25           Section 6. APPROPRIATION.--One million four hundred  
thousand dollars (\$1,400,000) is appropriated from the  
general fund to the commission on higher education for

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1 expenditure in fiscal year 2001 to implement the Private  
2 Student Tuition Scholarship Act. Any unexpended or  
3 unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2001  
4 shall revert to the general fund.

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