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SENATE BILL 289

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002

INTRODUCED BY

Leonard Tsosie

FOR THE INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO LOTTERY SCHOLARSHIPS; INCLUDING TRIBAL AND FEDERAL
INDIAN POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AS BENEFICIARY
INSTITUTIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING LOTTERY TUITION
SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS; AMENDING A SECTION OF THE NMSA 1978.

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

Section 1. Section 21-1-4.3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1996,
Chapter 71, Section 3, as amended) is amended to read:

"21-1-4.3. TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS AUTHORIZED--CERTAIN
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.--

A. To the extent that funds are made available by
the legislature from the lottery tuition fund, the governing
boards of [~~regents of New Mexico state university, New Mexico
institute of mining and technology, eastern New Mexico
university, western New Mexico university, the university of~~

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1 ~~New Mexico, New Mexico highlands university and northern New~~
2 ~~Mexico state school]~~ two-year or four-year post-secondary
3 educational institutions shall award tuition scholarships for
4 qualified resident students attending their respective
5 institutions [~~and branches of those institutions~~].

6 B. Except as authorized in [~~Subsection~~]
7 Subsections C and D of this section, the tuition scholarships
8 authorized in this section shall apply only to full-time
9 resident students who, immediately upon completion of a high
10 school curriculum at a public or accredited private New Mexico
11 high school or upon receiving a graduate equivalent diploma,
12 are accepted for entrance to and attend [~~one of the state~~
13 ~~educational institutions set forth in this section or one of~~
14 ~~the branches of those institutions~~] a four-year post-secondary
15 educational institution. Each tuition scholarship shall be
16 awarded for up to four consecutive years beginning the second
17 semester of the recipient's first year of enrollment, provided
18 that the recipient has maintained residency in New Mexico and
19 maintained a grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0
20 scale during his first semester of full-time enrollment.

21 C. The tuition scholarships authorized in this
22 section shall also apply to full-time resident students who,
23 immediately upon completion of a high school curriculum at a
24 public or accredited private New Mexico high school or upon
25 receiving a graduate equivalent diploma, attend a two-year

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1 [public] post-secondary educational institution [~~in New~~
2 ~~Mexico~~] and who, upon the completion of that curriculum or at
3 the end of two years, whichever is sooner, transfer to [~~one of~~
4 ~~the~~] a four-year post-secondary [~~state~~] educational
5 [~~institutions set forth in this section~~] institution. Those
6 students shall be eligible for a tuition scholarship for up to
7 two consecutive years while attending a two-year post-
8 secondary educational institution and up to an additional
9 three and one-half consecutive years, not to exceed a total of
10 four years of eligibility, while attending a four-year post-
11 secondary educational institution, provided that those
12 students maintain residency in New Mexico, maintain a grade
13 point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale and attend the
14 institution full time during the regular academic year.

15 D. The tuition scholarships authorized in this
16 section shall also apply to full-time resident students who:

17 (1) within one hundred twenty days of
18 completion of a high school curriculum at a public or
19 accredited private New Mexico high school, or of receiving a
20 graduate equivalent diploma, begin service in the United
21 States armed forces; and

22 (2) within one hundred twenty days of
23 completion of honorable service or medical discharge from the
24 service are accepted for entrance to and attend one of the
25 [~~state~~] two-year or four-year post-secondary educational

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1 institutions [~~set forth in this section~~].

2 E. The commission on higher education shall
3 prepare guidelines setting forth explicit student continuing
4 eligibility criteria and guidelines for administration of the
5 tuition scholarship program. Guidelines shall be distributed
6 to the governing board of [~~regents of~~] each institution to
7 enable a uniform availability of the resident student tuition
8 scholarships.

9 F. As used in this section:

10 (1) "four-year post-secondary educational
11 institution" means New Mexico state university, New Mexico
12 institute of mining and technology, eastern New Mexico
13 university, western New Mexico university, the university of
14 New Mexico, New Mexico highlands university, any of their
15 branches or the New Mexico campus of a post-secondary
16 educational institution created by an Indian nation, tribe or
17 pueblo or by the federal government that offers four-year
18 degrees in some if not all subjects in which curricula are
19 offered;

20 (2) "two-year or four-year post-secondary
21 educational institutions" means the institutions defined in
22 this section as two-year post-secondary educational
23 institutions and those defined in this section as four-year
24 post-secondary educational institutions; and

25 (3) "two-year post-secondary educational

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1 institution" means a two-year public post-secondary
2 educational institution located in New Mexico and the New
3 Mexico campus of a post-secondary educational institution
4 created by an Indian nation, tribe or pueblo or the federal
5 government that offers at least one two-year program,
6 completion of which results in conferral of an associate of
7 arts degree or other degree for completion of a two-year
8 curriculum."

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