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HOUSE BILL 138  
47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005  
INTRODUCED BY  
W. C. "Dub" Williams

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO LOTTERY SCHOLARSHIPS; EXTENDING THE DURATION OF  
LOTTERY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY.

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 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 New Mexico, New Mexico  
highlands university and northern New Mexico state school shall  
award tuition scholarships for qualified resident students

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1 attending their respective institutions and branches of those  
2 institutions.

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

17 C. The tuition scholarships authorized in this  
18 section shall also apply to full-time resident students who,  
19 immediately upon completion of a high school curriculum at a  
20 public or accredited private New Mexico high school or upon  
21 receiving a graduate equivalent diploma, attend a two-year  
22 public post-secondary educational institution in New Mexico and  
23 who, upon the completion of that curriculum or at the end of  
24 two years, whichever is sooner, transfer to one of the post-  
25 secondary state educational institutions set forth in this

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1 section. Those students shall be eligible for a tuition  
2 scholarship for [~~two~~] three consecutive years, provided that  
3 those students maintain residency in New Mexico, maintain a  
4 grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale and attend  
5 the institution full time during the regular academic year.

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

8 (1) within one hundred twenty days of  
9 completion of a high school curriculum at a public or  
10 accredited private New Mexico high school, or of receiving a  
11 graduate equivalent diploma, begin service in the United States  
12 armed forces; and

13 (2) within one hundred twenty days of  
14 completion of honorable service or medical discharge from the  
15 service are accepted for entrance to and attend one of the  
16 state educational institutions set forth in this section.

17 E. The commission on higher education shall prepare  
18 guidelines setting forth explicit student continuing  
19 eligibility criteria and guidelines for administration of the  
20 tuition scholarship program. Guidelines shall be distributed  
21 to the board of regents of each institution to enable a uniform  
22 availability of the resident student tuition scholarships. "