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HOUSE BILL 1007

**47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005**

INTRODUCED BY

Gail C. Beam

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE; ALLOWING THE DIRECTOR OF THE  
INCOME SUPPORT DIVISION OF THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO  
APPROVE A SECOND ADDITIONAL SEMESTER FOR PARTICIPANTS IN THE  
EDUCATION WORKS PROGRAM.

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

Section 1. Section 27-2D-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2003,  
Chapter 317, Section 4) is amended to read:

"27-2D-4. EDUCATION WORKS PROGRAM--ELIGIBILITY--  
RESTRICTIONS--REQUIREMENTS.--

A. A person is eligible to receive education works  
services or cash assistance if the person demonstrates that:

(1) at the time of the application, the person  
does not have a bachelor's degree;

(2) the person has been accepted or has been

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1 determined to be eligible to enroll in a two- or four-year  
2 post-secondary degree program; and

3 (3) the degree the person will receive will  
4 increase his ability to engage in full-time paid employment.

5 B. A recipient shall not receive cash assistance  
6 funded by the temporary assistance for needy families block  
7 grant during the period in which the recipient is receiving  
8 cash assistance pursuant to the Education Works Act.

9 C. A recipient shall apply for all financial aid  
10 available from the post-secondary educational institution that  
11 the recipient attends.

12 D. During the twenty-four months of participation  
13 in the education works program, a recipient shall engage in at  
14 least twenty hours per week of class time, studying, work, work  
15 study or volunteering. The department shall assume that a  
16 recipient spends one and one-half hours studying for every hour  
17 of class time.

18 E. A recipient may participate in the education  
19 works program for no more than twenty-four months, except that  
20 a recipient may participate in the education works program for  
21 one additional academic term following the twenty-four month  
22 participation limit, or for two additional academic terms  
23 following the twenty-four month participation limit at the  
24 discretion of the director, if doing so will result in the  
25 recipient earning a degree.

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F. The number of recipients enrolled in the education works program is limited to the number of recipients who can be served by the funds available.

G. A recipient may earn only one degree through the education works program.

H. For purposes of this section, "work" means work study, training-related practicums, internships, paid employment, volunteering or any other activity approved by the department."