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SENATE BILL 37

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

INTRODUCED BY

Joseph J. Carraro

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; MAKING TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS APPLICABLE TO STUDENTS WHO DO NOT APPLY TO A STATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION IMMEDIATELY UPON COMPLETION OF A HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM OR IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIVING A GRADUATE EQUIVALENT DIPLOMA.

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

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1 highlands university and northern New Mexico state school shall
2 award tuition scholarships for qualified resident students
3 attending their respective institutions and branches of those
4 institutions.

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

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

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1 ~~who, upon the completion of that curriculum or at the end of~~
2 ~~two years, whichever is sooner, transfer to one of the post-~~
3 ~~secondary state educational institutions set forth in this~~
4 ~~section. Those students shall be eligible for a tuition~~
5 ~~scholarship for two consecutive years, provided that those~~
6 ~~students maintain residency in New Mexico, maintain a grade~~
7 ~~point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale and attend the~~
8 ~~institution full time during the regular academic year.~~

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

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

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

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

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1 Section 2. Section 21-13-10 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1963,
2 Chapter 17, Section 9, as amended) is amended to read:

3 "21-13-10. BOARD DUTIES.--

4 A. It is the duty of the community college board to
5 determine financial and educational policies of the community
6 college. The community college board shall provide for the
7 management of the community college and execution of these
8 policies by selecting a competent president for the community
9 college, and, upon the president's recommendation, the board
10 shall employ other administrative personnel, instructional
11 staff or other personnel as may be needed for the operation,
12 maintenance and administration of the community college.

13 B. The community college board shall have the power
14 to fix tuition and fee rates for resident and nonresident
15 students of the district, to accept gifts, to accept federal
16 aid, to purchase, hold, sell and rent property and equipment
17 and to promote the general welfare of the institution for the
18 best interest of educational service to the people of the
19 community college district.

20 C. To the extent that funds are made available by
21 the legislature from the lottery tuition fund, the community
22 college board shall award tuition scholarships for qualified
23 resident students attending their respective institutions.

24 D. The tuition scholarships authorized in this
25 section shall apply only to full-time resident students who,

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1 [immediately upon] after completion of a high school curriculum
2 at a public or accredited private New Mexico high school or
3 [upon] after receiving a graduate equivalent diploma, are
4 accepted for entrance to and attend a community college. Each
5 tuition scholarship shall be awarded for up to two consecutive
6 years beginning the second semester of the recipient's first
7 year of enrollment; provided that the recipient has maintained
8 residency in New Mexico and maintained a grade-point average of
9 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale during [~~his~~] the recipient's first
10 semester of full-time enrollment.

11 E. The commission on higher education shall prepare
12 guidelines setting forth explicit student continuing
13 eligibility criteria and guidelines for administration of the
14 tuition scholarship program. Guidelines shall be distributed
15 to community college boards to enable a uniform availability of
16 the resident student tuition scholarships."

17 Section 3. Section 21-16-10.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1996,
18 Chapter 71, Section 6, as amended) is amended to read:

19 "21-16-10.1. TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS AUTHORIZED.--

20 A. To the extent that funds are made available by
21 the legislature from the lottery tuition fund, the board of a
22 technical and vocational institute shall award tuition
23 scholarships for qualified resident students attending a
24 technical and vocational institute.

25 B. The tuition scholarships authorized in this

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1 section shall apply only to full-time resident students who,
2 [~~immediately upon~~] after completion of a high school curriculum
3 at a public or accredited private New Mexico high school or
4 [~~upon~~] after receiving a graduate equivalent diploma, are
5 accepted for entrance to and attend a technical and vocational
6 institute. Each tuition scholarship shall be awarded for up to
7 two consecutive years beginning the second semester of the
8 recipient's first year of enrollment; provided that the
9 recipient has maintained residency in New Mexico and maintained
10 a grade-point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale during
11 [~~his~~] the recipient's first semester of full-time enrollment
12 with renewal of an additional two years upon transfer.

13 C. The commission on higher education shall prepare
14 guidelines setting forth explicit student continuing
15 eligibility criteria and guidelines for administration of the
16 tuition scholarship program. Guidelines shall be distributed
17 to the boards of technical and vocational institutes to enable
18 a uniform availability of the resident student tuition
19 scholarships."