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SENATE BILL 107

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2006

INTRODUCED BY
Steve Komadina

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE; EXPANDING THE EDUCATION WORKS
PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY; AMENDING A SECTION OF THE NMSA 1978.

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, as amended) 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
determined to be eligible to enroll in a two- or four-year
post-secondary or graduate or post-graduate degree program; and

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1 [~~3~~] (2) the degree the person will receive
2 will increase [~~his~~] the person's ability to engage in full-time
3 paid employment.

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

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

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

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

25 F. The number of recipients enrolled in the

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1 education works program is limited to the number of recipients
2 who can be served by the funds available.

3 G. ~~[A recipient may earn only one degree through~~
4 ~~the education works program.~~

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

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