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SENATE BILL 686

**48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007**

INTRODUCED BY

Joseph J. Carraro

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; MAKING TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS WHO DO NOT APPLY TO A STATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION IMMEDIATELY UPON COMPLETION OF A HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM OR IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIVING A GENERAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE.

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 E.] C. The [commission on] higher education  
22 department shall prepare guidelines setting forth explicit  
23 student continuing eligibility criteria and guidelines for  
24 administration of the tuition scholarship program. Guidelines  
25 shall be distributed to the board of regents of each

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1 institution to enable a uniform availability of the resident  
2 student tuition scholarships."

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

5 "21-13-10. BOARD DUTIES.--

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

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

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

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

14           E. The [~~commission on~~] higher education department  
15 shall prepare guidelines setting forth explicit student  
16 continuing eligibility criteria and guidelines for  
17 administration of the tuition scholarship program. Guidelines  
18 shall be distributed to community college boards to enable a  
19 uniform availability of the resident student tuition  
20 scholarships."

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

23           "21-16-10.1. TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS AUTHORIZED.--

24           A. To the extent that funds are made available by  
25 the legislature from the lottery tuition fund, the board of a

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1 technical and vocational institute shall award tuition  
2 scholarships for qualified resident students attending a  
3 technical and vocational institute.

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

18 C. The [~~commission on~~] higher education department  
19 shall prepare guidelines setting forth explicit student  
20 continuing eligibility criteria and guidelines for  
21 administration of the tuition scholarship program. Guidelines  
22 shall be distributed to the boards of technical and vocational  
23 institutes to enable a uniform availability of the resident  
24 student tuition scholarships."