

1 HOUSE BILL 247

2 **51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 George Dodge, Jr.

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8 FOR THE MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; CREATING THE MILITARY WAR VETERAN
12 SCHOLARSHIP FUND; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

15 SECTION 1. A new section of Chapter 21, Article 21E NMSA
16 1978 is enacted to read:

17 "~~[NEW MATERIAL]~~ MILITARY WAR VETERAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND--
18 PURPOSE--ADMINISTRATION--DISBURSEMENTS.--

19 A. There is created in the state treasury the
20 "military war veteran scholarship fund". The fund shall
21 consist of money appropriated to the fund, any grants, gifts
22 and bequests made to the fund and income from investment of the
23 fund. Any money in the fund from grants, gifts, bequests or
24 investment income shall not revert to the general fund at the
25 end of any fiscal year. Money in the fund shall be dispersed

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1 on warrants signed by the secretary of finance and
2 administration pursuant to vouchers signed by the secretary of
3 higher education.

4 B. The higher education department shall administer
5 the fund and shall make disbursements from the fund to
6 reimburse post-secondary educational institutions under the
7 exclusive control of the state for tuition payments, required
8 student fees and book allowances for military war veteran
9 students, including students who have received a baccalaureate
10 degree and are enrolled in a program of study leading to a
11 master's or doctoral degree, who are attending post-secondary
12 educational institutions pursuant to Article 9, Section 14 of
13 the constitution of New Mexico and who are in compliance with
14 the educational institution's satisfactory academic progress
15 requirements. A financial aid officer may exercise
16 professional judgment when special circumstances exist to
17 adjust the cost of attendance or expected family contribution
18 or to modify other factors to make the program responsive to a
19 student's special financial circumstances; provided that
20 documentation exists in the student's file within the
21 parameters authorized for this program.

22 C. A military war veteran may apply to the
23 veterans' services department for a scholarship. The veterans'
24 services department shall determine the eligibility of an
25 applicant and certify approved applicants to the higher

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1 education department. The higher education department shall
2 pay by voucher to the appropriate post-secondary educational
3 institution an amount not exceeding the amount of the
4 scholarship for an approved military war veteran. Money in the
5 fund shall be allocated in the order that applications are
6 received and approved.

7 D. The higher education department and the
8 veterans' services department may adopt rules and procedures as
9 necessary or appropriate to implement the provisions of this
10 section.

11 E. As used in this section, "military war veteran"
12 means a person who has been honorably discharged from the armed
13 forces of the United States; who was a resident of New Mexico
14 at the original time of entry into the armed forces or who has
15 lived in New Mexico for ten years or more; and who has been
16 awarded a southwest Asia service medal, global war on terror
17 service medal, Iraq campaign medal, Afghanistan campaign medal
18 or any other medal issued for service in the armed forces of
19 the United States in support of any United States military
20 campaign or armed conflict as defined by congress or
21 presidential executive order or any other campaign medal issued
22 for service after August 1, 1990 in the armed forces of the
23 United States during periods of armed conflict as defined by
24 congress or by executive order."

25 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.--One hundred fifty thousand

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1 dollars (\$150,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
2 military war veteran scholarship fund for expenditure in fiscal
3 year 2014 to carry out the provisions of this act. Any
4 unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of
5 fiscal year 2014 shall revert to the general fund.

6 SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the
7 provision of this act is July 1, 2013.