

1 SENATE BILL 301

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

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Craig Brandt

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; INCREASING THE FAMILY INCOME FOR
12 ELIGIBILITY FOR THE NEW MEXICO SCHOLARS ACT SCHOLARSHIPS.

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

15 SECTION 1. Section 21-21H-1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1989,
16 Chapter 212, Section 1) is amended to read:

17 "21-21H-1. SHORT TITLE.--~~[This act]~~ Chapter 21, Article
18 21H NMSA 1978 may be cited as the "New Mexico Scholars Act"."

19 SECTION 2. Section 21-21H-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1989,
20 Chapter 212, Section 3) is amended to read:

21 "21-21H-3. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the New Mexico
22 Scholars Act:

23 A. "academic year" means any consecutive period of
24 two semesters, three quarters or other comparable units
25 commencing with the fall term each year;

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1 B. "award recipient" means a student awarded a New
2 Mexico Scholars Act scholarship;

3 C. [~~commission~~] "department" means the
4 [~~commission on~~] higher education department;

5 D. "eligible institution" means any degree-granting
6 educational institution in New Mexico accredited by the north
7 central association of colleges and secondary schools;

8 E. "satisfactory academic progress" means
9 completion of at least twenty-four credit hours per year and
10 maintenance of a cumulative grade point average of a minimum of
11 3.0 or higher on a scale of 4.0; and

12 F. "scholarship" means a scholarship awarded
13 pursuant to the New Mexico Scholars Act."

14 SECTION 3. Section 21-21H-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1989,
15 Chapter 212, Section 4) is amended to read:

16 "21-21H-4. CREATION OF SCHOLARSHIP.--There are
17 established "New Mexico Scholars Act scholarships" administered
18 by the [~~commission~~] department."

19 SECTION 4. Section 21-21H-5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1989,
20 Chapter 212, Section 5, as amended) is amended to read:

21 "21-21H-5. CONDITIONS FOR FIRST YEAR ELIGIBILITY.--A
22 scholarship may be awarded to a New Mexico high school graduate
23 who:

24 A. is a resident of New Mexico as determined by the
25 definition of residency for tuition purposes as established by

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1 the ~~[commission]~~ department;

2 B. will graduate or has graduated from a New Mexico
3 high school and who enrolls in an eligible institution by the
4 end of ~~[his]~~ the graduate's twenty-first birthday;

5 C. has met the admission requirements and is
6 accepted for enrollment as a full-time undergraduate student at
7 an eligible institution;

8 D. has maintained a level of performance in high
9 school reflected by an overall score of at least twenty-five on
10 the American college test or SAT equivalent or a high school
11 class rank in the top five percent of the student's high school
12 graduating class in either the student's junior or senior year;

13 E. has a total combined family income of no more
14 than ~~[thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000)]~~ sixty thousand dollars
15 (\$60,000) per year adjusted annually on January 1 to reflect
16 any change from the previous year's then-current consumer price
17 index for all urban consumers published by the bureau of labor
18 statistics of the United States department of labor in either
19 of the calendar years ending within the student's junior or
20 senior years in high school or in the case of a student whose
21 immediate family has more than one family member enrolled full
22 time in an eligible institution of post-secondary education, a
23 total combined family income of no more than an amount as
24 determined by the ~~[commission]~~ department to be equivalent to a
25 ~~[thirty thousand dollar (\$30,000)]~~ sixty-thousand dollar

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1 (\$60,000) total combined family income;

2 F. has complied with all the rules [~~and~~
3 ~~regulations~~] adopted by the [~~commission~~] department for award
4 of the scholarship and the provisions regarding the
5 administration of scholarships adopted pursuant to the New
6 Mexico Scholars Act; and

7 G. is a citizen of the United States or has a
8 permanent resident visa."

9 SECTION 5. Section 21-21H-8 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1989,
10 Chapter 212, Section 8, as amended) is amended to read:

11 "21-21H-8. TERMINATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS.--A scholarship is
12 terminated upon the substantial noncompliance by the award
13 recipient with the New Mexico Scholars Act or the rules
14 [~~regulations or procedures~~] promulgated by the [~~commission~~]
15 department pursuant to that act."

16 SECTION 6. Section 21-21H-9 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1989,
17 Chapter 212, Section 9, as amended) is amended to read:

18 "21-21H-9. RULES [~~AND REGULATIONS~~].--The [~~commission~~]
19 department may adopt such rules [~~regulations and procedures~~] as
20 necessary or appropriate to implement the provisions of the New
21 Mexico Scholars Act. A financial aid officer may exercise
22 professional judgment when special circumstances exist to
23 adjust the cost of attendance or the expected family
24 contribution or to modify other factors that make the program
25 responsive to a student's special financial circumstances and

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1 for which documentation exists in the student's file within the
2 parameters authorized for this program."

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

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