

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SB 11a

52nd Legislature, 1st Session, 2015

Tracking Number: .198163.1

Short Title: Scholarship for National Merit Scholars

Sponsor(s): Senator Jacob R. Candelaria

Analyst: James Ball

Date: February 19, 2015

AS AMENDED

The Senate Education Committee amendment strikes language equating the number of national merit scholarships with the number of athletic scholarships that may be granted by the governing boards of specified higher education institutions.

Original Bill Summary:

SB 11 amends statute to allow the boards of regents or governing boards of specified higher education institutions¹ to establish and grant National Merit Scholarships (NMSs) for tuition and fees in the same numbers as athletic scholarships permitted by law, provided that:

- each recipient has been designated a national merit finalist by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC);
- each recipient enroll in one of New Mexico's higher education institutions or one of the branches of those institutions within one year following completion of a high school curriculum at a public or accredited private school in the United States or of having received a graduate equivalent diploma (see "Technical Issues," below); and
- in no event shall more than 75 percent of the scholarships granted be awarded to out-of-state residents.

The NMSs may be renewed each semester for four consecutive years provided that the recipient:

- is a full-time student; and
- maintains a 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale for the semester prior to each renewal.

Fiscal Impact:

SB 11 does not contain an appropriation.

¹ The higher education institutions to which SB 11 would apply are the University of New Mexico, New Mexico State University, New Mexico Highlands University, Eastern New Mexico University, Western New Mexico University, and New Mexico Junior College.

Substantive Issues:

According to New Mexico State University (NMSU), if this scholarship were funded, the university would anticipate an impact on graduation rates by encouraging high-achieving students to enroll in New Mexico universities.

Technical Issues:

Legislation endorsed by the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) and enacted in 2014 (Laws 2014, Chapter 31) replaces the phrases “graduate equivalent diploma,” which SB 11 uses, and several other similar phrases with the phrase “high school equivalency credential.”²

- This legislation resolved two issues that had first come to the LESL’s attention during the 2012 interim:³ (1) that state law uses a variety of terms all apparently indicating the General Educational Development program, or GED; and (2) that the term “GED” is a registered trademark, which should not be used in statute.
- With these points in mind, the sponsor may wish to change the phrase “graduate equivalent diploma” to “high school equivalency credential.”

Background:

NMSU also points out that universities that actively recruit national merit scholars can offer very attractive packages. For example, Oklahoma State University offers a national merit scholars scholarship for tuition, fees, housing, books, and board which can amount to over \$7,000 per year.

According to the website of the NMSC, there are three types of National Merit Scholarships:

1. National Merit \$2,500 Scholarships, which are supported primarily by the NMSC’s own funds although corporate sponsors sometimes help underwrite the awards;
2. Corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarships, which in 2014 were offered by more than 240 corporations, company foundations, and businesses as part of their educational philanthropy; and
3. College-sponsored Merit Scholarships, which in 2014 were offered by more than 180 postsecondary educational institutions, only one of which – the University of New Mexico – is from New Mexico (see **Attachment**).

Committee Referrals:

SEC/SFC

² Because the section of Laws 2014, Chapter 31 requiring the comprehensive replacement of phrases noted above is presented in a temporary provision, that section is not compiled but included in the annotations to Section 22-2-8.8 NMSA 1978. Senate Bill 357, introduced during the 2015 session, amends the numerous sections of state law – not just those in the *Public School Code* – to which the phrase “high school equivalency credential” applies.

³ The LESL endorsed similar legislation in 2013. Although the bill passed, it received a pocket veto from the Governor.

Related Bills:

SB 357 *High School Equivalency Credentials*

College Merit Scholarship® sponsors.

The higher education institutions listed below currently are sponsors of National Merit Scholarships. The number in parentheses reflects the minimum number of Merit Scholarship awards NMSC expects the college to offer annually. However, neither the institution nor NMSC is obligated to offer these scholarships in 2015, 2016, or beyond.

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|--|--|---|
| <hr/> <p>Abilene Christian University (3) Alma College (3) American University (10) Arizona State University, and identified campuses (85) Auburn University (75) Ball State University (3) Baylor University (35) Belmont University (3) Bethel University (3) Boston College (7) Boston University (15) Bowdoin College (3) Bradley University (3) Brandeis University (10) Brigham Young University (10) Bucknell University (3) Butler University (3)</p> <hr/> <p>Calvin College (16) Carleton College (75) Case Western Reserve University (25) Centre College (3) Claremont McKenna College (8) Clemson University (25) Colby College (Maine) (3) College of Charleston (3) College of Wooster (3) Colorado College (6) Colorado State University (3) Concordia College (Minnesota) (3) Creighton University (3) Davidson College (3) Denison University (3) DePauw University (5) Dickinson College (3) Drake University (3) Emory University (20)</p> | <hr/> <p>Florida State University (15) Fordham University, and identified campuses (3) Franklin and Marshall College (3) Furman University (15) George Washington University (15) Gordon College (Massachusetts) (3) Goshen College (3) Grinnell College (15) Gustavus Adolphus College (5) Hampshire College (3) Harding University (10) Harvey Mudd College (30) Hendrix College (7) Hillsdale College (3) Hope College (6)</p> <hr/> <p>Illinois Wesleyan University (3) Indiana University Bloomington (6) Iowa State University (35) Ithaca College (3) Kalamazoo College (3) Kansas State University (5) Kenyon College (5) Knox College (3) Lawrence University (Wisconsin) (3) Lehigh University (3) Lewis & Clark College (Oregon) (5) Liberty University (3) Louisiana State University (25) Louisiana Tech University (3) Loyola University Chicago (3) Luther College (3) Macalester College (35) Marquette University (3) Messiah College (3) Miami University-Oxford (15) Michigan State University (35)</p> | <p>Michigan Technological University (3) Mississippi State University (10) Missouri University of Science and Technology (9) Montana State University- Bozeman (3) New College of Florida (3) North Dakota State University (3) Northeastern University (Massachusetts) (3) Northwestern University (50)</p> <hr/> <p>Oberlin College (40) Occidental College (3) Ohio University-Athens (6) Oklahoma Christian University (3) Oklahoma City University (3) Oklahoma State University (10) Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering (3) Oregon State University (5) Ouachita Baptist University (3) Pennsylvania State University, and identified campuses (5) Pepperdine University (5) Pomona College (6) Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (15) Rhodes College (11) Rochester Institute of Technology (7) Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology (15) Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, and identified campuses (15)</p> <hr/> <p>Saint Louis University (3) St. Olaf College (20) Samford University (5) Santa Clara University (4) Scripps College (3)</p> |
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South Dakota State University (3)
Southern Methodist
University (15)
Southwestern University (Texas) (3)
Stony Brook University (3)
Tennessee Technological
University (3)
Texas A&M University (110)
Texas Christian University (3)
Texas Tech University (3)
Transylvania University (3)
Trinity University (Texas) (3)
Truman State University (3)
Tufts University (10)
Tulane University (20)

University of Alabama at
Birmingham (5)
University of Alabama at
Tuscaloosa (30)
University of Arizona (55)
University of Arkansas,
Fayetteville (20)
University of Central Florida (10)
University of Chicago (60)
University of Cincinnati (10)
University of Dallas (15)
University of Dayton (3)
University of Evansville (3)
University of Georgia
Foundation (20)
University of Houston-
University Park (10)
University of Idaho (15)
University of Iowa (20)
University of Kansas (28)
University of Kentucky (10)
University of Louisville (12)
University of Maine (3)
University of Maryland,
and identified campuses (15)
University of Miami (15)
University of Minnesota,
and identified campuses (36)
University of Mississippi (10)

University of Missouri-
Columbia (20)
University of Missouri-
Kansas City (3)
University of Montana-
Missoula (3)
University of Nebraska-
Lincoln (20)
University of Nevada, Las Vegas (3)
University of Nevada, Reno (3)
University of New Mexico (3)
University of North Dakota (3)
University of North Texas (3)
University of Oklahoma,
and identified campuses (30)
University of Oregon (6)
University of Pittsburgh (3)
University of Puget Sound (3)
University of Richmond (10)
University of Rochester (20)
University of St. Thomas
(Minnesota) (3)
University of the South (5)
University of South Carolina,
and identified campuses (8)
University of South Florida (12)
University of Southern
California (35)
University of Southern
Mississippi (5)
University of Tennessee,
Knoxville (15)
University of Texas at Dallas (24)
University of Tulsa (55)
University of Utah (20)
University of Vermont (3)
University of Wisconsin-
Eau Claire (3)
University of Wisconsin-
Madison (5)
University of Wyoming (3)
Ursinus College (3)

Valparaiso University (3)
Vanderbilt University (18)

Villanova University (5)
Washington and Lee University (15)
Washington State University (3)
Washington University
in St. Louis (50)
Wayne State University
(Michigan) (10)
West Virginia University
Foundation, Inc. (12)
Western Washington University (3)
Westminster College (Utah) (3)
Westmont College (3)
Wheaton College (Illinois) (25)
Whitman College (5)
Wichita State University (3)
Willamette University (3)
Wofford College (3)
Worcester Polytechnic Institute (10)
Xavier University (Ohio) (3)