

1 HOUSE BILL 555

2 **52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Christine Trujillo

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD; ESTABLISHING THE EARLY CHILDHOOD
12 EDUCATOR 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. [NEW MATERIAL] EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR
16 SCHOLARSHIP FUND.--

17 A. The "early childhood educator scholarship fund"
18 is created in the state treasury. The state treasurer shall
19 deposit in the fund all amounts appropriated to the fund. The
20 children, youth and families department shall administer the
21 fund. Money shall be disbursed only on warrant of the
22 secretary of finance and administration upon voucher signed by
23 the secretary of children, youth and families or the
24 secretary's authorized representative. Earnings from
25 investment of the fund shall be credited to the fund. Money in

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1 the fund shall not revert to any other fund at the end of a
2 fiscal year.

3 B. Money in the early childhood educator
4 scholarship fund is appropriated to the children, youth and
5 families department to be used to create scholarships to
6 enhance the ability of early childhood caregivers and educators
7 to obtain either:

8 (1) a child development associate credential
9 issued by the national credentialing program of the council for
10 professional recognition; or

11 (2) a New Mexico child development certificate
12 issued by the children, youth and families department.

13 C. The children, youth and families department
14 shall adopt and promulgate rules to establish criteria for
15 making awards from the early childhood educator scholarship
16 fund based on evaluation of applications submitted by eligible
17 applicants.

18 D. Awards from the early childhood educator
19 scholarship fund:

20 (1) may be used for eligible expenses; but

21 (2) shall not be used to cover educational
22 expenses for which a recipient has received a state income tax
23 credit.

24 E. No more than five percent of the total awards
25 made during each fiscal year shall be expended from the fund

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1 for administrative costs.

2 F. As used in this section:

3 (1) "eligible applicant" means a resident of
4 the state who:

5 (a) is currently working in a child care
6 or education setting with children under five years of age; and

7 (b) has not previously earned either a
8 child development associate credential issued by the council
9 for professional recognition or a New Mexico child development
10 certificate issued by the children, youth and families
11 department; and

12 (2) "eligible expense" means any fee, book,
13 supplies or educational preparatory program used while in
14 pursuit of a child development associate credential issued by
15 the council for professional recognition or a New Mexico child
16 development certificate issued by the children, youth and
17 families department.