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**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE**  
**BILL ANALYSIS**  
**53rd Legislature, 2nd Session, 2018**

<b>Bill Number</b>	<u>HB150</u>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<u>Romero</u>
<b>Tracking Number</b>	<u>.209556.1</u>	<b>Committee Referrals</b>	<u>HEC/HAFC</u>
<b>Short Title</b>	<u>College Affordability Endowment Fund</u>		
<b>Analyst</b>	<u>Terrazas</u>	<b>Original Date</b>	<u>1/25/18</u>
		<b>Last Updated</b>	<u></u>

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**BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 150 (HB150) appropriates \$2 million to carry out the purposes of the College Affordability Endowment Fund.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The bill appropriates \$2 million from the general fund to the College Affordability Endowment Fund for expenditure in FY18 to carry out the purposes of the fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund.

**SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

The purpose of the College Affordability Act is to encourage New Mexico students with financial need to attend and complete educational programs at public postsecondary educational institutions in New Mexico. It provides tuition assistance to New Mexico residents who have been out of school for more than a year and are not eligible for other scholarships or grants provided by the state, such as the New Mexico Legislative Lottery Scholarship. Award recipients can receive up to \$1,000 per semester, depending on financial need. The grant is for a period of one year and may be renewed on an annual basis or until the student graduates with a bachelor's degree from an eligible institution.

To be eligible for the College Affordability Grant, students must be New Mexico residents, enrolled at least half time as undergraduate students at a New Mexico public college or university or tribal college, demonstrate financial need as determined by the eligible college or university, and have completed a high school diploma or high school equivalency credential. Students must contact the institution's financial aid office for application instructions and complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form.

The last of the award money available in the College Affordability Fund was awarded this year.

According to a 2016 report by the Department of Workforce Solutions, employment in occupations that typically require a high school diploma or equivalent certificate or less is projected to grow by 11.6 percent, or 66,600 jobs, by 2022. The five-year estimated median earnings of high school graduates 25 years or older is \$26,050. Jobs that require a bachelor’s degree or higher are projected to grow at a faster rate, by 13.4 percent. Jobs that require a master’s degree are projected to grow by 21.6 percent.

**Adult Education Attainment in New Mexico.** According to 2016 data from the United States Census Bureau, about 896 thousand New Mexicans 25 years and over (65 percent) have an educational attainment level of “some college, no degree” or less. About 220 thousand New Mexicans 25 years and over (17 percent) live below the poverty line. Attachment 1 shows the 2016-2017 tuition and fee costs at New Mexico public postsecondary institutions.

**Available Funding for Nontraditional Students in New Mexico.** Though New Mexico offers the Legislative Lottery Scholarship, it is only available to students who enroll at a public postsecondary educational institution in New Mexico within 16 months of high school graduation with a high school equivalency credential or military service.

In FY19, the Student Incentive Grant Program will be the only state-administered, needs-based grant available to adults who choose to return to college. To be eligible for this grant, students must be New Mexico residents, enrolled at least half time as undergraduate students at a New Mexico public college or university or tribal college, demonstrate financial need as determined by the eligible college or university, and have a high school diploma or high school equivalency credential. The Student Incentive Program awards \$200 to \$2,500 per year.

## **RELATED BILLS**

Relates to SB84, NM Reconnect Scholarship Act, which appropriates \$5.8 million to enact the “New Mexico Reconnect Scholarship Act” to provide low-income, non-traditional students with tuition assistance scholarships to attend community college.

## **SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

- LESC Files

**DT/rab**

**2016-2017 Tuition and Fee Costs at New Mexico Public Post-Secondary Institutions**

<b>Undergraduate Resident Tuition and Fees</b>	
<b>Four Year Research Institutions</b>	
New Mexico IMT	3591.45
New Mexico State University	3561.10
University of New Mexico	3573.00
<i>Average Cost</i>	<i>3575.18</i>
<b>Four Year Comprehensive Institutions</b>	
Eastern New Mexico University	2958.84
New Mexico Highlands University	2902.20
Northern New Mexico College	2382.60
Western New Mexico University	3412.13
<i>Average Cost</i>	<i>2913.94</i>
<b>Two Year Institutions (Branches)</b>	
ENMU Roswell	1320.00
ENMU Ruidoso	590.00
NMSU Alamogordo	1032.00
NMSU Carlsbad	638.00
NMSU Doña Ana	864.00
NMSU Grants	1032.00
UNM Gallup	-
UNM Los Alamos	1048.00
UNM Taos	951.00
UNM Valencia	984.00
<i>Average Cost</i>	<i>939.89</i>
<b>Two Year institutions (Independent)</b>	
Central New Mexico Community College	789.00
Clovis Community College	688.00
Luna Community College	481.00
Mesalands Community College	850.00
New Mexico Junior College	660.00
San Juan College	922.00
Santa Fe Community College	877.50
<i>Average Cost</i>	<i>752.50</i>

Source: HED