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AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; ALLOWING HOME SCHOOL STUDENTS  
TO QUALIFY FOR LEGISLATIVE LOTTERY TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS.

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

SECTION 1. Section 21-21N-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2014,  
Chapter 80, Section 2, as amended) is amended to read:

"21-21N-2. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Legislative  
Lottery Tuition Scholarship Act:

A. "community college" means a branch community  
college of a four-year state educational institution, a  
two-year state educational institution or a community college  
or technical and vocational institute established pursuant to  
Chapter 21, Article 13 or 16 NMSA 1978, respectively;

B. "comprehensive institution" means eastern  
New Mexico university, western New Mexico university,  
New Mexico highlands university or northern New Mexico  
college;

C. "department" means the higher education  
department;

D. "full time" means fifteen or more credit hours  
each semester of the regular academic year in state  
educational institutions and twelve or more credit hours each  
semester of the regular academic year in community colleges  
or for legacy students in any program semester;

1 E. "fund" means the lottery tuition fund;

2 F. "legacy student" means a full-time resident  
3 student who has received for three or more program semesters  
4 by the end of fiscal year 2014 the legislative lottery  
5 scholarship awarded pursuant to the former provisions of  
6 Sections 21-1-4.3, 21-13-10 and 21-16-10.1 NMSA 1978 prior to  
7 the enactment of the Legislative Lottery Tuition Scholarship  
8 Act;

9 G. "program semesters" means those semesters for  
10 which a legacy or qualified student may receive a tuition  
11 scholarship and excludes the first semester of attendance at  
12 a public post-secondary educational institution;

13 H. "public post-secondary educational institution"  
14 means a four-year state educational institution or a  
15 community college;

16 I. "qualified student" means a full-time student  
17 who graduated from a public or accredited private New Mexico  
18 high school in the state or completed the requirements of a  
19 home-based or non-public-school primary educational program  
20 in the state or received a high school equivalency credential  
21 while maintaining residency in New Mexico and who:

22 (1) either:

23 (a) within sixteen months of graduation  
24 from a public school in this state or completion of the  
25 requirements of a home-based or non-public-school primary

1 educational program or receipt of a high school equivalency  
2 credential, was accepted for entrance to and attended a  
3 public post-secondary educational institution; or

4 (b) within four months of graduation  
5 from a public school in this state or completion of the  
6 requirements of a home-based or non-public-school primary  
7 educational program or receipt of a high school equivalency  
8 credential, began service in the United States armed forces  
9 and within sixteen months of completion of honorable service  
10 or medical discharge from the service, attended a public  
11 post-secondary educational institution; and

12 (2) successfully completed the first  
13 semester at a public post-secondary educational institution  
14 with a grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale  
15 during the first semester of full-time enrollment;

16 J. "research institution" means the university of  
17 New Mexico, New Mexico state university or New Mexico  
18 institute of mining and technology;

19 K. "state educational institution" means an  
20 institution of higher education enumerated in Article 12,  
21 Section 11 of the constitution of New Mexico;

22 L. "tribal college" means a tribally, federally or  
23 congressionally chartered post-secondary educational  
24 institution located in New Mexico that is accredited by the  
25 higher learning commission; and

1 M. "tuition scholarship" means the scholarship  
2 that provides tuition assistance per program semester for a  
3 qualified student or legacy student attending a public  
4 post-secondary educational institution or tribal college."           

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