

1 SENATE BILL 307

2 **56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Mimi Stewart

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; EXPANDING THE ELIGIBILITY OF THE
12 TEACHER PREPARATION AFFORDABILITY ACT TO INCLUDE LICENSED
13 TEACHERS; REMOVING THE REQUIREMENT THAT AN ELIGIBLE STUDENT BE
14 ENROLLED AT LEAST HALF-TIME; PROVIDING TECHNICAL CLEANUP.

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

17 SECTION 1. Section 21-210-1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2019,
18 Chapter 193, Section 7) is amended to read:

19 "21-210-1. SHORT TITLE.--~~[Sections 7 through 14 of this~~
20 ~~act]~~ Chapter 21, Article 210 NMSA 1978 may be cited as the
21 "Teacher Preparation Affordability Act"."

22 SECTION 2. Section 21-210-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2019,
23 Chapter 193, Section 8) is amended to read:

24 "21-210-2. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Teacher
25 Preparation Affordability Act:

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underscoring material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

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1 A. "department" means the higher education
2 department;

3 B. "eligible student" means a New Mexico resident
4 who is enrolled or enrolling [~~at least half-time~~] in an
5 accredited public education department-approved teacher
6 preparation program at a New Mexico public post-secondary
7 educational institution or tribal college at any time later
8 than one hundred twenty days following high school graduation
9 or the award of a high school equivalency credential and who is
10 pursuing a teaching degree or is a licensed teacher and is
11 pursuing a graduate degree;

12 C. "scholarship" means a teacher preparation
13 affordability scholarship; and

14 D. "tribal college" means a tribally, federally or
15 congressionally chartered tribal post-secondary educational
16 institution located in New Mexico that is accredited by the
17 [~~north central association of colleges and schools~~] higher
18 learning commission."

19 SECTION 3. Section 21-210-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2019,
20 Chapter 193, Section 9) is amended to read:

21 "21-210-3. CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY.--A scholarship may
22 be awarded to an eligible student who:

23 A. has not earned appropriate educational
24 credentials to be licensed as a teacher by the public education
25 department or is a licensed teacher and is pursuing a graduate

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underscoring material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 degree;

2 B. has demonstrated financial need consistent with
3 the criteria promulgated by the department; and

4 C. has complied with other rules promulgated by the
5 department to carry out the provisions of the Teacher
6 Preparation Affordability Act."

7 SECTION 4. Section 21-210-6 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2019,
8 Chapter 193, Section 12) is amended to read:

9 "21-210-6. TERMINATION OF SCHOLARSHIP.--A scholarship is
10 terminated upon occurrence of one or more of the following:

11 A. the eligible student withdraws from the public
12 post-secondary educational institution or tribal college or
13 from the teacher preparation program [~~or the eligible student~~
14 ~~fails to remain at least a half-time student~~];

15 B. the eligible student fails to achieve
16 satisfactory academic progress; or

17 C. the eligible student is in substantial
18 noncompliance with the Teacher Preparation Affordability Act or
19 the rules promulgated pursuant to that act."

20 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the
21 provisions of this act is July 1, 2023.

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