



LFC Requester: Liu

**PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
BILL ANALYSIS  
2025 REGULAR SESSION**

**SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

Check all that apply:

Original  Amendment   
Correction  Substitute

Date Prepared: 01/22 /25

Bill No: HB89

**Agency Name and Code:** PED - 924

**Sponsor:** Hochman-Vigil

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**Short Title:** GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP  
ACT CHANGES

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**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

| Appropriation |      | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|---------------|------|---------------------------|---------------|
| FY26          | FY27 |                           |               |
| N/A           | N/A  | N/A                       | NFA           |

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

| Estimated Revenue |      |      | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|-------------------|------|------|---------------------------|---------------|
| FY26              | FY27 | FY28 |                           |               |
| N/A               | N/A  | N/A  | N/A                       | NFA           |

**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

|              | FY26 | FY27 | FY28 | 3 Year Total Cost | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|--------------|------|------|------|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Total</b> | N/A  | N/A  | N/A  | N/A               | N/A                       | NFA           |

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act:

## **SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

### **BILL SUMMARY**

**Synopsis:** House Bill 89 (HB89) would amend the [Graduate Scholarship Act](#) to enhance accessibility and equity in graduate education. The bill would require recipients to be New Mexico residents with financial need or from underrepresented groups, eliminating the need for U.S. citizenship or permanent residency. The scholarship may be awarded to recipients who have earned a bachelor's degree and maintained a grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale or who holds a paid position supporting faculty teaching or research activities. It lowers the enrollment requirement from fulltime enrollment to at least six credit hours in a graduate program. Scholarships may be awarded until the recipient earns a terminal degree or receives funding for a maximum of eight semesters. HB89 would remove the previous \$7,200 annual cap, replacing it with an award covering up to the full cost of tuition and fees. It would eliminate the requirement for a ten-hour-per-week unpaid internship or assistantship while retaining the expectation for students to maintain a 3.0 GPA and good academic standing.

The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2025.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The bill does not contain an appropriation.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

HB89 would enhance accessibility and equity in graduate education by prioritizing financial support for New Mexico residents, particularly those from underrepresented backgrounds. It removes citizenship requirements, allows part-time enrollment, creates more inclusive opportunities for students facing financial and personal constraints, and help alleviate student debt. Notably, the bill changes the definition of “eligible institution” from “any graduate-degree-granting state university” to a degree-granting state universities enumerated in [Article 12, Section 11](#) of the New Mexico Constitution.

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

Increasing the equity of access to graduate degrees, including degrees in education, may have an impact on recruitment and retention of diverse professionals as educators in areas of high need, such as special education, bilingual education, and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). This may complement efforts by the Public Education Department (PED) to incentivize employment and minimize teacher vacancies in [hard-to-staff](#) jobs.

The Learning Policy Institute's report, [Building a Strong, Stable, and Diverse Educator Workforce in New Mexico](#), underscores the significance of teacher diversity. It noted that “the state’s teaching workforce does not match the racial and ethnic diversity of New Mexico students. While 75% of students in the state identify as students of color, only 36% of teachers identify as teachers of color.” It cited studies that showed “teachers of color boost outcomes for students of color, including increased test scores, improved graduation rates, increased aspirations to attend college, fewer unexcused absences and lower likelihoods of chronic absenteeism and suspension.”

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

None for PED. The Higher Education Department will likely have to amend Rule 5.7.15, Graduate Scholarship Program, to maintain conformity with the Graduate Scholarship Act.

## **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

Relates to House Bill 64, Expand Post-Secondary Tuition Eligibility, which proposes to expand the scope of the nondiscrimination policy regarding eligibility for postsecondary institutions and state tuition rates and financial aid to include students who attended adult basic education or, in the immediately preceding two years, earned income for which returns were filed under the Income Tax Act. The bill also grants statute tuition rates and financial aid to persons for whom a court made findings of fact and rulings of law in accordance with the Special Immigrant Juvenile Classification Act, and submitted an application to the United States Secretary of Homeland Security for a grant of special immigrant juvenile status, under 8 U.S.C. Section 1101(a)(27)(J).

Relates to Senate Bill 68, Graduation Scholarship Act Changes, which proposes amendments to the Act that are substantially similar to those proposed by HB89.

## **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

None.

## **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

This bill supports efforts to support students from cradle to career by adding in graduate education.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

None.

## **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

None.

## **AMENDMENTS**

None.