

LFC Requester:	LFC
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**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2025 REGULAR SESSION**

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, EMAIL ANALYSIS TO:

LFC@NMLEGIS.GOV

and

DFA@STATE.NM.US

{Include the bill no. in the email subject line, e.g., HB2, and only attach one bill analysis and related documentation per email message}

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Click all that apply:

Original Amendment
Correction Substitute

Date 2025-01-16
Bill No: HB89

Sponsor: Hochman-Vigil, Dayan Agency Name and Code NMHED
Short GRADUATE Number: _____
Title: SCHOLARSHIP ACT Person Writing Romero, Heather
Phone: 5054768410 Email heather.romero@hed.n

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
N/A	N/A	N/A	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		

N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act:

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

House Bill 89 (HB89) amends 21-21G NMSA 1978, the Graduate Scholarship Act, changing eligibility by increasing awards.

The amendments remove United States citizenship or naturalization requirements, adds grade point average (GPA) qualification criteria, and removes full-time enrollment. The bill removes unpaid internship requirements and requires continuous enrollment in consecutive academic years to maintain qualifications for the scholarship. The bill removes the maximum award of \$7,200 per academic year to award one hundred percent of tuition and fees provide the student remains enrolled. HB89 makes several non-substantive amendments to correct outdated references within the statute. The bill adds new material to require students to serve in an internship or assistantship at the eligible institutions approved by the students' academic department.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HB89 makes no appropriation.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Graduate scholarships are funded through the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) student financial aid line item in the General Appropriations Act. The FY25 General

Fund appropriation for the graduate scholarships was \$488,300 and supported approximately 68 students based on funding criteria established by NMHED. The FY25 average per-semester, full tuition and fees for New Mexico institutions offering graduate programs is \$4,248. The current scholarship awards are per academic year and are distributed in equal installments over the period of an academic year or period of enrollment. If an awardee is enrolled in the program for less than an academic year, then they will receive a pro rata share of the stipend.

While HB89 removes citizenship or other naturalization requirements to qualify for the scholarship, graduate students remain legally authorized to study in the United States per federal statutes. HB89 identifies an award recipient to be a New Mexico resident student. Many graduate programs allow for part-time enrollment, particularly toward the end of a program as a student is completing his or her thesis or dissertation. HB89 changes this requirement to allow part-time enrollment of 6 credit hours or more but requires students to maintain enrollment and a 3.0 GPA in consecutive academic years to continue to receive scholarship awards. HB89 removes a doctor of medicine as eligible program of study.

HB89 adds new material providing graduate scholarships to recipients until the award recipient either received a terminal degree or has qualified and received eight semesters of scholarship, whichever occurs first. Recipients must agree to serve the eligible institution during the academic year in an internship or assistantship approved by the student's academic department.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

No performance measures are specified in the bill.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

N/A

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

N/A

TECHNICAL ISSUES

N/A

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

N/A

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If HB89 isn't enacted the current Graduate Scholarship Act will remain in place.

AMENDMENTS

N/A