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AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; ALLOWING CERTAIN STUDENTS WITH
DISABILITIES TO RECEIVE LEGISLATIVE LOTTERY TUITION
SCHOLARSHIPS.

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

SECTION 1. Section 21-21N-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2014,
Chapter 80, Section 3, as amended) is amended to read:

"21-21N-3. TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS AUTHORIZED--QUALIFIED
STUDENTS.--

A. To the extent that funds are made available
by the legislature from the fund, the boards of regents or
governing bodies of public post-secondary educational
institutions shall award tuition scholarships in
department-approved amounts to qualified students and legacy
students attending their respective public post-secondary
educational institutions.

B. Beginning in fiscal year 2015:

(1) a legacy student is eligible to receive
a tuition scholarship until the total number of program
semesters for which the legislative lottery scholarship is
received pursuant to the former provisions of Sections
21-1-4.3, 21-13-10 and 21-16-10.1 NMSA 1978 or the
Legislative Lottery Tuition Scholarship Act reaches eight;
provided that the legacy student maintains residency in

1 New Mexico, maintains a grade point average of 2.5 or higher
2 on a 4.0 scale and completes twelve or more credit hours per
3 program semester; and

4 (2) a qualified student who is not a legacy
5 student is eligible to receive the tuition scholarship for a
6 maximum of seven program semesters and in an amount
7 determined pursuant to the provisions of Section 21-21N-4
8 NMSA 1978.

9 C. Except as otherwise provided in this section,
10 a tuition scholarship may be awarded to a qualified student
11 who:

12 (1) maintains residency in New Mexico;

13 (2) maintains a grade point average of 2.5
14 or higher on a 4.0 scale; and

15 (3) completes:

16 (a) for a student attending a four-year
17 public post-secondary educational institution, fifteen or
18 more credit hours per program semester; and

19 (b) for a student attending a two-year
20 public post-secondary educational institution, twelve or more
21 credit hours per program semester.

22 D. For students with disabilities who may
23 require accommodations, the department, in consultation with
24 the student and the office at the public post-secondary
25 educational institution that serves students with

1 disabilities, shall review both the definition of "full time"
2 and the maximum number of consecutive program semesters of
3 eligibility and adjust either or both as deemed reasonable
4 and appropriate, based on the student's disability needs. In
5 no case, however, shall "full time" mean fewer than six
6 credit hours per semester, and in no case shall eligibility
7 extend beyond fourteen consecutive program semesters. The
8 definition of "qualified student" notwithstanding, a
9 New Mexico resident who had to leave the state to receive an
10 education pursuant to the federal Individuals with
11 Disabilities Education Act shall be eligible for a tuition
12 scholarship if the student graduated from an accredited high
13 school in another state and otherwise meets the qualifications
14 for a tuition scholarship pursuant to the definition of
15 "qualified student" and this section." _____

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