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SENATE BILL 234

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021

INTRODUCED BY
Cliff R. Pirtle

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

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1 Mexico highlands university or northern New Mexico college;

2 C. "department" means the higher education
3 department;

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

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

10 F. "legacy student" means a full-time resident
11 student who has received for three or more program semesters by
12 the end of fiscal year 2014 the legislative lottery scholarship
13 awarded pursuant to the former provisions of Sections 21-1-4.3,
14 21-13-10 and 21-16-10.1 NMSA 1978 prior to the enactment of the
15 Legislative Lottery Tuition Scholarship Act;

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

20 H. "public post-secondary educational institution"
21 means a four-year state educational institution or a community
22 college;

23 I. "qualified student" means a full-time student
24 who graduated from a public ~~[or accredited private New Mexico]~~
25 high school in the state or ~~[who]~~ completed the requirements of

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1 a home-based or non-public-school primary educational program
2 in the state or received a high school equivalency credential
3 while maintaining residency in New Mexico and who:

4 (1) either:

5 (a) within sixteen months of graduation
6 from a public school in this state or completion of the
7 requirements of a home-based or non-public-school primary
8 educational program or receipt of a high school equivalency
9 credential, was accepted for entrance to and attended a public
10 post-secondary educational institution; or

11 (b) within four months of graduation
12 from a public school in this state or completion of the
13 requirements of a home-based or non-public-school primary
14 educational program or receipt of a high school equivalency
15 credential, began service in the United States armed forces and
16 within sixteen months of completion of honorable service or
17 medical discharge from the service, attended a public post-
18 secondary educational institution; and

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

23 J. "research institution" means the university of
24 New Mexico, New Mexico state university or New Mexico institute
25 of mining and technology;

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

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

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