

1 SENATE MEMORIAL 101

2 **51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO FORM A WORK GROUP  
12 TO STUDY THE SOLVENCY OF THE LOTTERY TUITION FUND AND MAKE  
13 RECOMMENDATIONS.

14  
15 WHEREAS, since legislative lottery scholarships were first  
16 awarded in 1996, over seventy-five thousand students have  
17 attended New Mexico public higher educational institutions with  
18 the help of those scholarships; and

19 WHEREAS, from 1996 through the spring semester of 2012,  
20 approximately four hundred thirty-three million six hundred  
21 thousand dollars (\$433,600,000) in lottery profits have been  
22 applied toward qualified state residents' college tuition; and

23 WHEREAS, under current state law, legislative lottery  
24 scholarships are given to state resident students who enroll in  
25 and attend a four-year or two-year public higher educational

1 institution in the state immediately upon completing a high  
2 school curriculum at a public or accredited private New Mexico  
3 high school, immediately upon receiving a high school  
4 equivalency diploma or within one year of completing honorable  
5 service in the United States armed forces or of receiving a  
6 medical discharge from the service as long as service was  
7 commenced within one hundred twenty days of receiving a diploma  
8 of excellence or high school equivalency diploma; and

9 WHEREAS, under current state law, a student who maintains  
10 a 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale is eligible to receive  
11 a legislative lottery scholarship in the amount of one hundred  
12 percent of the tuition cost:

13 A. beginning the second semester of the student's  
14 first year of enrollment at a four-year or two-year public  
15 higher educational institution in the state; and

16 B. for up to four consecutive years of enrollment,  
17 as follows:

18 (1) four consecutive years of enrollment at a  
19 four-year public higher educational institution; or

20 (2) two consecutive years of enrollment at a  
21 two-year public higher educational institution followed  
22 immediately by two consecutive years of enrollment at a four-  
23 year public higher educational institution; and

24 WHEREAS, recently compiled data from the higher education  
25 department indicate that, of the students who receive the

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1 lottery scholarship in the spring of their first academic year:

2 A. by the fall of the second academic year,  
3 seventy-five percent of those students still receive the  
4 lottery scholarship;

5 B. by the spring of the second academic year,  
6 sixty-four percent of those students still receive the lottery  
7 scholarship;

8 C. by the fall of the third academic year, fifty-  
9 seven percent of those students still receive the lottery  
10 scholarship;

11 D. by the spring of the third academic year, forty-  
12 eight percent of those students still receive the lottery  
13 scholarship;

14 E. by the fall of the fourth academic year, forty-  
15 six percent of those students still receive the lottery  
16 scholarship;

17 F. by the spring of the fourth academic year,  
18 forty-two percent of those students still receive the lottery  
19 scholarship; and

20 G. by the fall of the fifth academic year, thirty-  
21 two percent of those students still receive the lottery  
22 scholarship; and

23 WHEREAS, tuition at the state's public higher educational  
24 institutions rises an average of four to five percent every  
25 year; and

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1           WHEREAS, recent projections of the lottery tuition fund  
2 balances and revenues show that in fiscal year 2014, the fund  
3 will be insufficient to be fully distributed to all qualified  
4 state resident students;

5           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
6 OF NEW MEXICO that the higher education department, in  
7 cooperation with the legislative education study committee and  
8 the legislative finance committee, be requested to form a work  
9 group to study the solvency of the lottery tuition fund; and

10           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work group be co-chaired  
11 by the secretary of higher education and the director of  
12 institutional research at the university of New Mexico; and

13           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work group be composed of  
14 the following members:

15           A. two members from the majority party in the house  
16 of representatives or the members' designees;

17           B. two members from the minority party in the house  
18 of representatives or the members' designees;

19           C. two members from the majority party in the  
20 senate or the members' designees;

21           D. two members from the minority party in the  
22 senate or the members' designees;

23           E. five members representing institutions of higher  
24 education, as follows: three from the council of university  
25 presidents, one from the New Mexico association of community

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1 colleges and one from the New Mexico independent community  
2 colleges;

3 F. six students representing state higher  
4 educational institutions, as follows: two representing  
5 research universities, two representing other universities and  
6 two representing community colleges, all appointed from self-  
7 nominations and nominations from student government bodies;

8 G. the director of the legislative finance  
9 committee or the director's designee; and

10 H. the director of the legislative education study  
11 committee or the director's designee; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff for the work group be  
13 provided by the higher education department, the legislative  
14 education study committee and the legislative finance  
15 committee; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work group compile the  
17 following student data regarding the awards made from the  
18 lottery tuition fund if such data have been aggregated per  
19 student and provided to the higher education department or the  
20 legislative finance committee, and if not, then recommend that  
21 the following per-student data be provided each semester to the  
22 higher education department and the legislative finance  
23 committee by each public higher educational institution that  
24 receives lottery tuition fund payments:

25 A. grade point average;

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1           B. financial need, as reported on the standardized  
2 free application for federal student aid;

3           C. declared major, if any;

4           D. number of classes and credits taken per  
5 semester;

6           E. number of semesters completed at the  
7 institution, and any other institution previously or  
8 concurrently, and whether the completed semesters were  
9 consecutive;

10          F. amount of legislative lottery scholarship awards  
11 received to date;

12          G. any other financial aid received, including  
13 scholarships, grants or loans;

14          H. attainment and name of the attained degree, if  
15 any;

16          I. disenrollment, if any; and

17          J. any other information that the work group deems  
18 relevant and appropriate; and

19           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work group study methods,  
20 and the efficacy and ramifications of those methods, to  
21 increase the short-term and long-term solvency of the lottery  
22 tuition fund, including:

23           A. increasing the merit qualifications required of  
24 recipients;

25           B. increasing the financial-need qualifications

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1 required of recipients;

2 C. allowing one or more gap years before the  
3 commencement of enrollment and attendance at a public higher  
4 educational institution to allow time for maturation and work  
5 force experience;

6 D. providing additional sources of funding for the  
7 legislative lottery scholarship program;

8 E. reducing the amount of each, or certain,  
9 legislative lottery scholarship awards, including tiered awards  
10 based on a standardized balancing of recipient qualification  
11 criteria; and

12 F. any other measures that the work group deems  
13 relevant and appropriate; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work group meet at least  
15 three times during the 2013 interim to synthesize research,  
16 data and analysis and discuss ways to make the lottery tuition  
17 fund solvent in a manner that most effectively serves state  
18 residents over the long term; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work group present its  
20 recommendations to the legislature by December 1, 2013; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
22 transmitted to the secretary of higher education, the directors  
23 of the legislative education study committee and the  
24 legislative finance committee, the director of institutional  
25 research at the university of New Mexico, the executive

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1 directors of the council of university presidents and the New  
2 Mexico independent community colleges and the president of the  
3 board of the New Mexico association of community colleges.

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