

American Legion Auxiliary  
New Mexico Girls State  
2015 Bill/Resolution



1 **Committee:** Education 1

**Principal Author:** Taylor Fritz

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3 **Bill No.:** S2

**Delegation:** ALA NM Girls State 2015

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5 **Title of Bill:** Children of Veterans Educational Rights (COVER) Act

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7 **AN ACT**

8 Relating to the immediate descendants of active-duty military members in which  
9 their education rights will be guaranteed within the State of New Mexico.  
10 Whereas, we have looked the other way and supported or endorsed intentional  
11 discrimination against the children of active-duty military members by excluding  
12 them from opportunities we take for granted simply because their parent(s) made  
13 the choice to protect our freedoms and serve. Whereas, doing so is wrong,  
14 unpatriotic and hurts military readiness by drawing focus away from the mission  
15 of protecting our homeland and our great State. Whereas, the COVER Act  
16 implements protections against such discrimination and honors those who serve  
17 by letting them know we are here protecting their family while they are protecting  
18 us. Whereas, implementing the COVER Act will actively support those who are  
19 supporting our heroes and ensure that New Mexico continues to be a military-  
20 friendly and supportive state to our military members.

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22 **Be It Enacted By The American Legion Auxiliary of New Mexico Girls State**  
23 **2015 that:**

24 The State of New Mexico will guarantee the following for the children of active-  
25 duty military service members while stationed within the State of New Mexico.

- 26 A. Portability of Education Benefits  
27 B. Mandatory acceptance of single-enrollment education requirements  
28 C. Allowance of School-Choice regardless of domiciled address, to  
29 include inter-district transfer choice  
30 D. Athletic eligibility for varsity sports play at inter-district choice  
31 schools regardless of academic year.  
32 E. Exemption from standardized testing if previously accomplished at  
33 another school or state prior to transfer  
34 F. Full and complete transference of GPA weighting and scale from  
35 previous state/school

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37 **Section 1. Short Title.** – This act may be cited as the “Children of Veterans  
38 Educational Rights Act” or “COVER Act”  
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40 **Section 2. Definitions.** – As used in the "Children of Veterans Educational  
41 Rights (COVER) Act"

- 42 A. "Veteran" being the active-duty service member who has received  
43 orders to a base located within the State of New Mexico and  
44 relocates their family to the same.
- 45 B. "Education Benefits" being in-state tuition at New Mexico colleges  
46 and eligibility for Valedictorian and Salutatorian recognition at New  
47 Mexico High Schools.
- 48 C. "Single-Enrollment Education Requirements" as illustrated per the  
49 following example: State History required only once in a 4-year  
50 academic career, regardless of state taken, etc.
- 51 D. "School-Choice" being the ability of the student to select a school  
52 outside of their place of domicile within the State of New Mexico  
53 which better serves their academic or extracurricular needs.
- 54 E. "Varsity Sports Play" being the eligibility to try out for and be  
55 selected to play on a Varsity Sports Team for which they have  
56 proven merit or ability regardless of school or district.
- 57 F. "Standardized Testing" being high-school exit exams previously  
58 completed in at a previous school of assignment
- 59 G. "GPA weighting" being the point value assigned to Advanced  
60 Placement, Advanced, or Specialized curriculum from previous  
61 school of assignment

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63 **Section 3. Provisions.** – This program would be monitored by the New Mexico  
64 Department of Education with the assistance of the School Liaison Officer  
65 assigned to the active-duty member's base of assignment.

- 66 A. The term of these benefits for the children of active-duty military members  
67 would remain in effect for the remainder of the students occupancy in New  
68 Mexico once granted, regardless of the parent's continuance of military  
69 service.
- 70 B. Applicable only to institutions of education directly serviced and monitored  
71 by the State of New Mexico (i.e. no Private institutions are required to  
72 comply, but are highly encouraged to seek commensurate status)
- 73 C. The COVER Act must be enforced. State funds would be withheld from  
74 institutions who do not comply.

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76 **Section 4. Repeal.** – All laws, acts, provisions, or parts of laws contained in the  
77 Constitution of the State of New Mexico in conflict with any provision of this act  
78 are hereby repealed.

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80 **Section 5. Effective Date.** – This bill shall go into effect upon graduation of the  
81 current academic class in the year of passage.