

## ANALYSIS

# Who won, who lost in this year's session

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The New Mexican

## Winners

**College students:** The New Mexico Lottery's staff and various legislators wanted to rewrite state law to eliminate the requirement that 30 percent of gross revenue from the lottery go for college scholarships.

Lottery employees and their lobbyists said the proposed change, combined with more prizes, would someday funnel even more money to the scholarship fund. Opponents of the measure countered that students would be short-changed for years and maybe forever.

House members heavily amended the bill to guarantee students at least \$40 million a year for scholarships. That bill died, but the 30 percent requirement for scholarships remains intact — a good outcome for students trying to get a degree without accumulating debt from loans.

**Think New Mexico:** The Santa Fe-based policy organization fought the lottery staff's proposal all through the session. Kristina G. Fisher, associate director of Think New Mexico, demonstrated encyclopedic knowledge of lottery revenues and distributions.