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HOUSE BILL 150

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010

INTRODUCED BY

Rick Miera

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; ENACTING THE HISPANIC EDUCATION ACT;
CREATING THE HISPANIC EDUCATION OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT; PROVIDING POWERS AND DUTIES; CREATING AN ADVISORY
COUNCIL.

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

Section 1. A new section of the Public School Code is
enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as the
"Hispanic Education Act"."

Section 2. A new section of the Public School Code is
enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] PURPOSE.--The purpose of the Hispanic
Education Act is to:

- A. provide for the study, development and

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1 implementation of educational systems that affect the
2 educational success of Hispanic students to close the
3 achievement gap and increase graduation rates;

4 B. encourage and foster parental involvement in the
5 education of their children; and

6 C. provide mechanisms for parents, community and
7 business organizations, public schools, school districts,
8 charter schools, public post-secondary educational
9 institutions, the department and state and local policymakers
10 to work together to improve educational opportunities for
11 Hispanic students for the purpose of closing the achievement
12 gap, increasing graduation rates and increasing post-secondary
13 enrollment, retention and completion."

14 Section 3. A new section of the Public School Code is
15 enacted to read:

16 "[NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITION.--As used in the Hispanic
17 Education Act, "office" means the Hispanic education office."

18 Section 4. A new section of the Public School Code is
19 enacted to read:

20 "[NEW MATERIAL] HISPANIC EDUCATION OFFICE--CREATED--
21 DUTIES.--

22 A. The "Hispanic education office" is created in
23 the department.

24 B. The office shall:

25 (1) focus on issues related to Hispanic

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1 education and advise the secretary on the development of policy
2 regarding the education of Hispanic students;

3 (2) advise the department and the commission
4 on the development of the five-year strategic plan for public
5 elementary and secondary education in the state as the plan
6 relates to Hispanic student education;

7 (3) assist and be assisted by other staff in
8 the department to improve elementary, secondary and
9 post-secondary educational outcomes for Hispanic students;

10 (4) serve as a resource to enable school
11 districts and charter schools to provide equitable and
12 culturally relevant learning environments, educational
13 opportunities and culturally relevant instructional materials
14 for Hispanic students enrolled in public schools;

15 (5) support and consult with the Hispanic
16 education advisory council; and

17 (6) support school districts and charter
18 schools to recruit parents on site-based and school district
19 committees."

20 Section 5. A new section of the Public School Code is
21 enacted to read:

22 "[NEW MATERIAL] HISPANIC EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL.--

23 A. The "Hispanic education advisory council" is
24 created as an advisory council to the secretary. The council
25 shall advise the secretary on matters related to improving

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1 public school education for Hispanic students, increasing
2 parent involvement and community engagement in the education of
3 Hispanic students and increasing the number of Hispanic high
4 school graduates who succeed in post-secondary academic,
5 professional or vocational education.

6 B. The secretary shall appoint members to the
7 council who are knowledgeable about and interested in the
8 education of Hispanic students, including representatives of
9 public schools; post-secondary education and teacher
10 preparation programs; parents; Hispanic cultural, community and
11 business organizations; other community and business
12 organizations; and other interested persons. The secretary
13 shall give due regard to geographic representation. Members
14 shall serve at the pleasure of the secretary.

15 C. The council shall elect a chairperson and such
16 other officers as it deems necessary.

17 D. The council shall meet as necessary, but at
18 least twice each year.

19 E. The council shall advise the secretary on
20 matters related to Hispanic education in New Mexico."

21 Section 6. A new section of the Public School Code is
22 enacted to read:

23 "[NEW MATERIAL] STATEWIDE STATUS REPORT.--

24 A. The office, in collaboration with the higher
25 education department, shall submit an annual preschool through

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1 post-secondary statewide Hispanic education status report no
2 later than November 15 to the governor and the legislature
3 through the legislative education study committee. A copy
4 shall be provided to the legislative library in the legislative
5 council service.

6 B. The status report shall include the following
7 information, by school district, by charter school and
8 statewide, which may be compiled from data otherwise required
9 to be submitted to the department:

10 (1) Hispanic student achievement at all
11 grades;

12 (2) attendance for all grades;

13 (3) the graduation rates for Hispanic
14 students;

15 (4) the number of Hispanic students in schools
16 that make adequate yearly progress and in schools at each level
17 of school improvement or restructuring; and

18 (5) the number and type of bilingual and
19 multicultural programs in each school district and charter
20 school.

21 C. The status report shall include the following
22 information, by post-secondary educational institution, which
23 may be compiled from data otherwise required to be submitted to
24 the higher education department:

25 (1) Hispanic student enrollment;

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- (2) Hispanic student retention; and
- (3) Hispanic student completion rates."

Section 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 2010.