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SENATE BILL 617

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

Cynthia Nava

AN ACT

RELATING TO CHILDREN; CHANGING THE YOUTH COUNCIL TO THE YOUTH ALLIANCE; CHANGING MEMBERSHIP AND DUTIES; CHANGING DUTIES OF THE YOUTH ALLIANCE COORDINATOR.

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

Section 1. Section 9-2A-19 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2003, Chapter 324, Section 1) is amended to read:

"9-2A-19. SHORT TITLE. -- ~~[This act]~~ Sections 9-2A-19 through 9-2A-22 NMSA 1978 may be cited as the "Youth ~~[Council]~~ Alliance Act". "

Section 2. Section 9-2A-20 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2003, Chapter 324, Section 2) is amended to read:

"9-2A-20. PURPOSE. -- The purpose of the Youth ~~[Council]~~ Alliance Act is to encourage young people throughout New Mexico to consider and discuss the ~~[problems]~~ opportunities, issues

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1 and challenges they face and to ~~[develop]~~ identify community,
2 family and collaborative assets as possible solutions for
3 presentation to the governor, lieutenant governor and
4 legislature. "

5 Section 3. Section 9-2A-21 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2003,
6 Chapter 324, Section 3) is amended to read:

7 "9-2A-21. YOUTH ~~[COUNCIL]~~ ALLIANCE CREATED--
8 ORGANIZATION--FUNCTIONS--DEFINITION.--

9 A. The "youth ~~[council]~~ alliance" is created ~~[in]~~
10 and is administratively attached to the children, youth and
11 families department.

12 B. The ~~[council]~~ alliance shall consist of ~~[at~~
13 ~~least one]~~ youth, aged fourteen to ~~[nineteen]~~ twenty-four, from
14 each New Mexico legislative district to be ~~[selected by county~~
15 ~~child welfare advocates and officials, educational advisors,~~
16 ~~faith-based organizations and community-based youth-serving~~
17 ~~organizations, in consultation with the legislators from whose~~
18 ~~district the youth is being selected]~~ recruited through an open
19 process and selected by a panel of other youth alliance
20 members, legislators, government officials and representatives
21 of community-based organizations using clear criteria developed
22 by the department to ensure ethnic and economic diversity.
23 Members shall serve two-year terms.

24 C. The ~~[council]~~ alliance shall meet at least four
25 times a year for the purpose of discussing ~~[the problems faced~~

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1 ~~by New Mexico youth~~, from a youth perspective, the assets that
2 exist in communities and schools and the gaps that are present
3 in these systems and to recommend ~~[possible solutions to these~~
4 ~~problems to be presented]~~ opportunities for problem solving and
5 collaboration to the governor, lieutenant governor and
6 legislature. ~~[Meetings shall not be scheduled to interfere~~
7 ~~with council participants' school attendance.]~~

8 D. The ~~[council]~~ alliance shall issue an annual
9 report that summarizes the activities and findings of the
10 ~~[council]~~ alliance. The report shall be submitted to the
11 legislature and the executive no later than November 15 of each
12 year.

13 E. Subject to sufficient appropriations, the
14 alliance members shall engage a diverse group of local peers
15 and solicit their input and launch local projects.

16 ~~[E.]~~ F. As used in the Youth ~~[Council]~~ Alliance
17 Act, ~~["council"]~~ "alliance" means the youth ~~[council]~~
18 alliance. "

19 Section 4. Section 9-2A-22 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2003,
20 Chapter 324, Section 4) is amended to read:

21 "9-2A-22. YOUTH ~~[COUNCIL]~~ ALLIANCE COORDINATOR- - POSITION
22 CREATED- - DUTIES. - -

23 A. The position of "youth ~~[council]~~ alliance
24 coordinator" is created in the office of the secretary of
25 children, youth and families to organize, administer and

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1 coordinate youth [~~council~~] alliance activities.

2 B. The coordinator shall:

3 [~~(1) select, in consultation with the~~
4 ~~appropriate legislators, county child welfare advocates and~~
5 ~~officials, educational advisors, faith-based organizations and~~
6 ~~community-based youth-serving organizations, a diverse cross~~
7 ~~section of youths for the council from throughout the state;~~

8 ~~(2) organize four council meetings a year,~~
9 ~~four of which will include the lieutenant governor and two of~~
10 ~~which will include the governor;~~

11 ~~(3) ensure that there is adequate adult~~
12 ~~supervision for youths participating in council activities;~~

13 ~~(4)]~~ (1) oversee the recruitment and selection
14 of alliance members;

15 (2) organize alliance meetings, at least four
16 of which shall include the lieutenant governor and the
17 children's cabinet and at least two of which shall include the
18 governor;

19 (3) assist the [~~council~~] alliance in preparing
20 an annual report on its activities and findings; and

21 ~~(5)]~~ (4) act as a liaison between the
22 [~~council~~] alliance and [~~any interagency coordinating group~~
23 consisting of certain cabinet secretaries if that entity is
24 established by executive order] the children's cabinet, the
25 legislature and other government officials to ensure their

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involvement in activities related to children and youth. "