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HOUSE MEMORIAL 45

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

INTRODUCED BY

Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT A SPANISH COMPETENCY EXAM BE REQUIRED FOR
CERTIFICATION BY THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

WHEREAS, early in 2004, the public education department
asked several persons to assist in the development of a Spanish
proficiency test for teachers for certification in the teaching
of Spanish; and

WHEREAS, a committee was formed with various members,
including university professors, administrators and Spanish
teachers from the state; and

WHEREAS, the committee met with a national evaluation
system representative to develop a Spanish proficiency test;
and

WHEREAS, the committee requested that the national
evaluation system exam questions be written in Spanish, as it

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 is the committee's belief that the purpose of the Spanish test
2 is to measure Spanish proficiency and persons should not be
3 penalized for their lack of English proficiency; and

4 WHEREAS, the national evaluation system representative
5 stated that the test would remain as written and indicated that
6 all the foreign language tests were in English; and

7 WHEREAS, in an attempt to find a solution to the dilemma,
8 it was recognized by committee members that New Mexico has a
9 good Spanish proficiency exam assessing the four skills of a
10 language proficiency: reading, writing, comprehension and
11 production; and

12 WHEREAS, the test is Prueba, the New Mexico Spanish
13 language proficiency exam, which was produced here in New
14 Mexico by New Mexicans with the language and accent typical of
15 New Mexico; and

16 WHEREAS, the test was normed in New Mexico and has been
17 taken by many students and teachers in the state; and

18 WHEREAS, if Prueba is accepted as the New Mexico Spanish
19 proficiency test for certification of the teaching of Spanish,
20 many individuals who have completed the required twenty-four
21 hours in Spanish, and have passed Prueba, would be licensed to
22 teach Spanish in schools; and

23 WHEREAS, this would save money for many persons who would
24 not be required to pay the national evaluation system to take
25 the Spanish test; and

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underscored material = new
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1 WHEREAS, persons would be assessed in the language the
2 Spanish proficiency test intends to measure; and

3 WHEREAS, the public education department would not have to
4 spend additional dollars in developing a test in Spanish or in
5 both languages; and

6 WHEREAS, persons would be given the opportunity to take
7 Prueba or the Spanish national evaluation system;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF THE
9 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the Spanish
10 competency exam required for the certification of Spanish be
11 Prueba, as well as the Spanish national evaluation system; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that individuals who have already
13 passed Prueba and have taken the required twenty-four hours of
14 college course work required by the public education department
15 should receive their certification in the teaching of Spanish;
16 and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that individuals who have passed
18 Prueba and have not completed the twenty-four required college
19 hours will receive the Spanish certification upon completion of
20 the required college hours; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
22 transmitted to the public education department.