AN ACT

RELATING TO STATE AGENCIES AND DEPARTMENTS; CREATING THE OFFICE OF HISPANIC AFFAIRS; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

Section 1. SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as the "Hispanic Affairs Act".

Section 2. OFFICE OF HISPANIC AFFAIRS CREATED--POWERS AND DUTIES.--

A. The "office of Hispanic affairs" is created and is administratively attached to the human services department.

B. The governor shall appoint a director, who shall work at the pleasure of the governor. The director shall employ other necessary employees, who shall be subject to the provisions of the Personnel Act.

C. The office shall:

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1   (1)   study issues important to Hispanics,

2   including history and culture; education, scholarships and

3   other financial assistance for education and career

4   development; economic and social issues concerning jobs,

5   housing, discrimination, youth, family support and crime; and

6   health care, maternal and child health, teen pregnancy and

7   health care coverage and access;

8   (2)   secure recognition of Hispanics'

9   accomplishments and contributions to New Mexico and the United

10   States;

11   (3)   cooperate with and assist public and

12   private entities dealing with issues important to Hispanics;

13   (4)   where appropriate, conduct periodic

14   conferences throughout the state to:

15   (a)   inform Hispanics of the

16   opportunities available to them through public and private

17   sources;

18   (b)   encourage Hispanics to share their

19   history and culture with other New Mexicans;

20   (c)   ensure participation by Hispanics in

21   the social and political processes of their communities; and

22   (d)   provide a forum for discussion of

23   issues affecting the Hispanic community; and

24   (5)   otherwise act as an advocate for Hispanic

25   residents of New Mexico.

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- 2 -

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D. Additionally, the office shall:

(1) act as a clearinghouse for information important to the Hispanic community;

(2) function as the coordinating office for all services and activities of state agencies and programs pertaining to Hispanics;

(3) encourage funding and implementation of education and training programs for Hispanics;

(4) promote and develop programs about community resources designed to meet the needs of Hispanics;

(5) prepare and submit a budget for the office; and

(6) publish an annual report on the activities and services of the office.

E. The office may:

(1) adopt and promulgate rules pursuant to the State Rules Act to carry out the duties of the office;

(2) accept gifts, grants, donations, bequests and devises from any source to be used to carry out its duties; and

(3) enter into contracts.

Section 3. OFFICE OF HISPANIC AFFAIRS FUND CREATED--ADMINISTRATION.--The "office of Hispanic affairs fund" is created in the state treasury. The fund shall consist of appropriations, gifts, grants, donations and bequests. Money

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1 in the fund at the end of any fiscal year shall revert to the

2 general fund. The fund shall be administered by the office of

3 Hispanic affairs, and disbursements from the fund shall be made

4 on warrants drawn by the secretary of finance and

5 administration pursuant to vouchers signed by the director of

6 the office or the director's authorized representative.

7 Section 4. APPROPRIATION.--Two hundred fifty thousand

8 dollars ($250,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the

9 office of Hispanic affairs fund for expenditure in fiscal year

10 2007 and subsequent fiscal years to pay the costs of

11 establishing the office, hiring staff and carrying out the

12 provisions of the Hispanic Affairs Act. Any unexpended or

13 unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year

14 shall not revert to the general fund.

- 4 -

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