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SENATE BILL 600

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

Bernadette M. Sanchez

AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH; ESTABLISHING CULTURAL COMPETENCE EDUCATION
REQUIREMENTS IN CERTAIN HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

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

Section 1. CULTURAL COMPETENCE HEALTH EDUCATION

REQUIRED.--New Mexico institutions of higher education offering
health education programs, both those culminating in a specific
health-related degree and those resulting in completion of a
curriculum in health-related technical competence, shall
include courses ensuring knowledge of cultural awareness and
competence in their respective health service fields. The
curricula shall be required in four-year institutions; branch,
community and junior colleges; and vocational and trade schools
offering higher education degrees. The curricula shall be
required at the undergraduate and graduate levels; provided

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1 that health students who have successfully completed cultural
2 competence course work at the undergraduate level may be exempt
3 from duplicate requirements at the graduate study level.

4 Section 2. TEMPORARY PROVISION--TASK FORCE.--

5 A. The higher education department shall lead a
6 task force on cultural competence composed of health curricula
7 specialists from each New Mexico institution of higher
8 education, a single representative from each New Mexico health-
9 related licensing board, a single representative from each
10 statewide health-related professional association, one
11 representative from the New Mexico health policy commission,
12 one representative from the commission on the status of women,
13 one representative each from statewide Hispanic, Native
14 American and African American organizations, two
15 representatives from the Indian affairs department and two
16 representatives from the department of health.

17 B. The task force shall study and make
18 recommendations on specific course curricula for each health-
19 related education field offered. The course work shall be
20 designed to be offered electronically and through various
21 distance-education methods and media so as to minimize
22 duplication and expense. Cultural competence health courses
23 shall include:

- 24 (1) cross-cultural communication;
25 (2) culturally and linguistically appropriate

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- 1 health policy considerations;
- 2 (3) exploration of health beliefs and
- 3 explanatory models;
- 4 (4) culturally competent health care delivery;
- 5 (5) health disparities, privilege and equity
- 6 factors in the health system; and
- 7 (6) culturally and linguistically competent
- 8 care supported by policy, administration and practice.

9 Section 3. TEMPORARY PROVISION--HEALTH PROFESSIONAL
10 BOARDS--RECOMMENDATIONS.--The boards of health-related licensed
11 professions regulated under Chapter 61, Articles 2, 3, 4, 5A,
12 6, 7A, 8, 9, 9A, 10, 11, 12A, 12B, 12C, 12D, 12E, 13, 14A, 14B,
13 14D, 14E and 17A NMSA 1978 shall study and recommend to the
14 governor and the legislative finance committee by August 2008
15 the continuing education courses to be required for licensure
16 and license renewal by members of their respective professions.
17 In preparing their recommendations, the boards shall consider
18 the course curricula recommended for adoption at New Mexico
19 institutions of higher education by the higher education
20 department's task force on cultural competence.

21 Section 4. TEMPORARY PROVISION--REVIEW.--The task force
22 on cultural competence shall review its recommendations with
23 the legislative health and human services committee by November
24 2007.