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SENATE BILL 36

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2020

INTRODUCED BY

William P. Soules

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOL PERSONNEL; CREATING THE TEACHER PREPARATION
TASK FORCE; PROVIDING DUTIES; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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] TEACHER PREPARATION TASK FORCE--DUTIES--
REPORTING.--

A. As used in this section, "teacher preparation
programs" means all public post-secondary undergraduate and
graduate teacher and school administrator preparation programs,
including those programs that prepare their students for
alternative or provisional licenses.

B. The "teacher preparation task force" is created
to:

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1 (1) study how to improve the quality of
2 teacher preparation in the state;

3 (2) study how to increase accountability for
4 teacher preparation programs in the state; and

5 (3) develop a statewide strategic plan to
6 prepare teachers to meet needs of students in the state such as
7 ensuring that teacher preparation includes culturally and
8 linguistically relevant curriculum and pedagogy.

9 C. The task force shall be representative of the
10 geographical, linguistic, cultural and ethnic diversity of the
11 state. The task force consists of:

12 (1) three members from the house of
13 representatives and three members from the senate appointed by
14 the New Mexico legislative council;

15 (2) the secretary of public education or the
16 secretary's designee;

17 (3) the secretary of higher education or the
18 secretary's designee;

19 (4) two local superintendents, two school
20 principals and two teachers appointed by the New Mexico
21 legislative council; provided that when these members are
22 appointed, the New Mexico legislative council shall ensure that
23 the following school districts are adequately represented:

24 (a) small school districts;

25 (b) mid-sized school districts;

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- 1 (c) large school districts;
2 (d) majority Hispanic student school
3 districts; and
4 (e) majority Native American student
5 school districts;
6 (5) two representatives of a statewide teacher
7 organization appointed by the governor;
8 (6) three faculty of teacher preparation
9 programs at the four-year public post-secondary educational
10 institutions appointed by the governor; and
11 (7) two faculty of teacher preparation
12 programs at the two-year public post-secondary educational
13 institutions appointed by the governor.

14 D. The New Mexico legislative council shall appoint
15 a legislator and the governor shall appoint one of the
16 governor's appointees to be co-chairs of the task force.

17 E. Vacancies on the task force shall be filled by
18 appointment by the original appointing authority. The co-
19 chairs of the task force may request the appointing authority
20 to replace a member who misses more than three meetings without
21 being excused.

22 F. Staff for the task force shall be provided by
23 the legislative education study committee, the legislative
24 finance committee and the department.

25 G. The task force may create subcommittees and may

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1 appoint topical experts to those subcommittees. Subcommittee
2 members who are not task force members may vote on subcommittee
3 motions but shall not vote on task force motions.

4 H. Members of the task force or its subcommittees
5 who are not paid with public money are entitled to per diem and
6 mileage as provided in the Per Diem and Mileage Act for state
7 employees and shall receive no other compensation, perquisite
8 or allowance.

9 I. In addition to other tasks, the task force shall
10 analyze and evaluate:

11 (1) the current capacity of teacher
12 preparation programs in the state, including how many students
13 each program can support and how many students graduate from
14 each program each year;

15 (2) the current need for teachers in the
16 state, including mapping of teacher shortages by license level
17 and license endorsement; and short- and long-range needs for
18 teachers by license level and each license endorsement;

19 (3) teacher recruitment and retention,
20 including:

21 (a) the roles of both teacher
22 preparation programs and the public school system in
23 recruitment and retention;

24 (b) the efficacy of financial incentives
25 and other types of support on recruitment and retention; and

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1 (c) successful efforts in other
2 jurisdictions;

3 (4) current teacher preparation programs,
4 including an evaluation of curriculum, pedagogy and
5 programmatic specialties at each program; duration and quality
6 of student teaching opportunities; and efficacy of financial
7 assistance and incentives on program completion, and how well
8 each teacher preparation program meets the needs of the
9 students in the state;

10 (5) professional learning and development
11 opportunities available to new and returning teachers; and

12 (6) teacher preparation program data needs and
13 gaps, including an analysis of the usefulness of current data
14 and recommendations for other data that would be useful to
15 collect so educator preparation programs are held accountable,
16 including measurements of recruitment, candidate performance,
17 employment and placement, retention, graduate performance and
18 perceptions.

19 J. The task force shall develop a "teacher
20 preparation strategic plan" that looks at one-to-two-, five-
21 and ten-year planning horizons and provides recommendations for
22 state and institutional policies and actions required to
23 establish New Mexico in a leading position for teacher
24 preparation.

25 K. The task force shall provide an interim report

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1 on its analyses, evaluations and initial recommendations to the
2 appropriate legislative interim committees and the governor by
3 November 1, 2020 and shall deliver a final report with its
4 findings and recommendations, the teacher preparation strategic
5 plan and final legislative recommendations to the legislature
6 and the governor by November 1, 2021."

7 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.--Fifty thousand dollars
8 (\$50,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
9 legislative education study committee for expenditure in fiscal
10 years 2021 and 2022 to pay the expenses of the teacher
11 preparation task force. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance
12 remaining at the end of fiscal year 2022 shall revert to the
13 general fund.

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