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55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2022

INTRODUCED BY

Derrick J. Lente

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 AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOL PERSONNEL; REQUIRING SALARY PARITY FOR PEOPLE WHO HOLD NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE CERTIFICATES; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

SECTION 1. Section 22-10A-13 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2003, Chapter 153, Section 44) is amended to read:

"22-10A-13. NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

CERTIFICATES.--The [state board] department may issue a Native

American language and culture certificate to a person

proficient in a Native American language and culture of a New

Mexico tribe or pueblo who meets criteria established by the

[state board] tribe or pueblo. A baccalaureate degree is not

required for the person applying for this certificate. The

Native American language and culture certificate shall be

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issued and renewable in accordance with procedures established by the [state board] department based on the agreement made with the tribe or pueblo. The minimum annual salary for a person holding a Native American language and culture certificate shall be equal to the minimum annual salary for a level two licensed teacher."

SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION. -- One million two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$1,250,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the public education department for expenditure in fiscal year 2023 to finance the salary parity for people who hold a Native American language and culture certificate. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2023 shall revert to the general fund.

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