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HOUSE BILL 117

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026

INTRODUCED BY

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AN ACT

RELATING TO DATA COLLECTION; REQUIRING INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
EDUCATION TO COLLECT AND REPORT TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT DEMOGRAPHIC DATA PERTAINING TO THE EDUCATIONAL
ATTAINMENT OF STUDENTS' PARENTS, GUARDIANS OR FICTIVE KIN;
PROVIDING FOR THE RELEASE OF AGGREGATED DATA FOR SEVERAL USES.

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

SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS--
DEMOGRAPHIC DATA COLLECTION--PARENTAL EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT.--

A. The institutions of higher education enumerated
in Article 12, Section 11 of the constitution of New Mexico
shall collect voluntarily provided demographic data that
pertains to the educational attainment of a prospective
student's parent, legal guardian or fictive kin on the
institution's application or registration forms. The data

.233200.1

1 collected shall be reported to the higher education department
2 separately and with other demographic data collected by the
3 institution. The department shall publish a report of the data
4 provided in this subsection separately and in combination with
5 other demographic data collected by the institutions.

6 B. The data collected pursuant to Subsection A of
7 this section may be aggregated at the state, county,
8 municipality, census tract or zip code level so as to prevent
9 identifying individuals and statistical unreliability. The
10 data may be used by the institutions or department to:

11 (1) facilitate demographic comparisons or
12 identify demographic disparities;

13 (2) improve the quality of academics and
14 educational services;

15 (3) conduct approved academic research;

16 (4) provide information and reports required
17 for federal and private grants; and

18 (5) guide academic and other institutional
19 policies and funding decisions.