

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

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underscored material = new  
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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.

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