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HOUSE BILL 426

43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 1998

INTRODUCED BY

JIMMIE GARNENEZ SR.

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE; REQUIRING PERSONS ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE TO DEMONSTRATE CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS.

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

Section 1. PUBLIC ASSISTANCE-- EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS. --

A. In addition to any requirement imposed by state or federal law, effective July 1, 2002 a person receiving or applying for public assistance shall meet one of the following criteria to qualify for a public assistance program administered by the human services department:

(1) the person has earned a high school diploma or its equivalent;

(2) the person has demonstrated that he can read at a minimum seventh grade level as determined by an assessment by the state department of public education;

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(3) the person is currently enrolled in public school or a state-approved adult literacy program designed to teach skills necessary for a person to read at a seventh grade level;

(4) the person is a qualified student served by a special education program and has completed the literacy goals specified by his individualized education plan, or the school district where he is enrolled certifies that literacy goals requiring reading at a seventh grade level are not appropriate for that student; or

(5) the person was born prior to January 1, 1950.

B. Each public school district and the human services department shall disseminate information regarding the requirements of this section. Written notice shall be given to all public assistance applicants or recipients at least once a year until the date this section becomes effective.