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SENATE BILL 392

44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1999

INTRODUCED BY

Mary Jane Garcia

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; ENACTING THE INDIVIDUAL SERVICES MODEL ACT TO AID STUDENTS AT RISK OF DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL; 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 SHORT TITLE. -- This act may be cited as the "Individual Services Model Act". "

Section 2. A new section of the Public School Code is enacted to read:

" NEW MATERIAL FINDINGS. -- The legislature finds that:

A. young people with poor educational background and social difficulties require special support if they are to acquire recognized vocational qualifications;

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1 B. students at risk of dropping out require
2 remedial education and support for resolving problems and
3 conflicts rooted in the student's social environment and in
4 personality development;

5 C. the dropout rate crosses income lines,
6 transcends language ability and persists across all ethnic
7 groups;

8 D. it is necessary to initiate local demonstration
9 projects that:

- 10 (1) focus on individual students;
- 11 (2) counsel at-risk students and their
12 families;
- 13 (3) provide for language interpretation as
14 necessary;
- 15 (4) schedule conferences around parents'
16 jobs; and
- 17 (5) employ professionals who are able to
18 coordinate local resources and provide students with
19 appropriate vocational guidance;

20 E. demonstration projects should be student
21 centered, designed so that the unique needs and
22 characteristics of the student are considered;

23 F. demonstration projects should offer guidance
24 and support services as appropriate to help students access
25 education services as well as health and social services as

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1 may be locally available; and

2 G. demonstration projects should include:

- 3 (1) parents;
- 4 (2) post-secondary schools;
- 5 (3) various social service providers;
- 6 (4) business and industry;
- 7 (5) labor organizations; and
- 8 (6) other entities offering resources and
- 9 techniques not entirely dependent upon the school. "

10 Section 3. A new section of the Public School Code is
11 enacted to read:

12 "[NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITIONS. --As used in the Individual
13 Services Model Act:

14 A. "at risk of dropping out of school" means a
15 student who:

- 16 (1) is unable to master his current grade
17 level;
- 18 (2) is at least two years below his grade
19 level in reading or math;
- 20 (3) is failing two or more courses;
- 21 (4) is failing one or more sections of the
22 most recent academic skills exam;
- 23 (5) is pregnant or a parent;
- 24 (6) has poor attendance or failing grades;
- 25 (7) has drug or alcohol abuse problems;

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- 1 (8) is homeless; or
- 2 (9) is limited in the ability to speak, read
- 3 and write in English; and

4 B. "support service" means:

- 5 (1) services for abused or neglected
- 6 students;
- 7 (2) behavioral therapy;
- 8 (3) depression or suicide prevention
- 9 services;
- 10 (4) educational diagnostic services;
- 11 (5) family counseling and therapy;
- 12 (6) prevention, intervention and treatment
- 13 services for human immunodeficiency virus, acquired immune
- 14 deficiency syndrome and sexually transmitted diseases;
- 15 (7) intentional and unintentional injury risk
- 16 reduction services;
- 17 (8) job coaching services;
- 18 (9) language tutoring and interpreter
- 19 services;
- 20 (10) mental health assessment;
- 21 (11) mentoring;
- 22 (12) nutrition problem services;
- 23 (13) physical health assessment;
- 24 (14) pregnancy prevention, intervention and
- 25 treatment services;

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- 1 (15) psychological evaluation services;
- 2 (16) psychological counseling;
- 3 (17) substance abuse prevention, intervention
- 4 and treatment services;
- 5 (18) tutoring; and
- 6 (19) vocational evaluation services. "

7 Section 4. A new section of the Public School Code is
8 enacted to read:

9 " [NEW MATERIAL] EDUCATIONAL SERVICES-- DROPOUT STUDENTS--
10 PILOT PROJECTS. --

11 A. The department of education shall operate
12 demonstration projects in selected areas throughout the state
13 to provide support services to students at risk of dropping
14 out of school.

15 B. Demonstration projects shall run until December
16 31, 2002.

17 C. The department of education shall enter into
18 joint powers agreements with governmental entities as
19 necessary and contract with private nonprofit corporations,
20 school districts or charter schools to provide support
21 services for students at risk of dropping out of school. The
22 governmental entities and contractors shall recruit students
23 at risk of dropping out of school and provide them support
24 services.

25 D. The governmental entities may hire employees

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1 who are not certified pursuant to the School Personnel Act to
2 work with students at risk of dropping out of school.

3 E. Students at risk of dropping out of school
4 shall be held to the graduation requirements pursuant to
5 Section 22-2-8.4 NMSA 1978 unless waived by the state
6 superintendent.

7 F. Contracting entities shall be evaluated by
8 criteria that include academic achievement, retention, student
9 attendance and the number of students who pass the New Mexico
10 high school competency exam.

11 G. Contracting entities shall maintain data
12 measuring individual behavior, including drug abuse and
13 pregnancy, among students at risk of dropping out from school.

14 H. Contracting entities shall provide or obtain
15 services, including transportation, emergency medical
16 services, security and support services, to address specific
17 needs of students at risk of dropping out of school.

18 I. Contracting entities shall establish for each
19 participating student an individual plan for student success,
20 outlining individualized objectives and services needed.

21 J. The department of education shall request
22 funding for the Individual Services Model Act in its agency
23 budget request. "

24 Section 5. A new section of the Public School Code is
25 enacted to read:

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1 FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

SB 392/a

2 FIRST SESSION, 1999

3
4
5 February 26, 1999

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7 Mr. President:

8
9 Your EDUCATION COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred

10 SENATE BILL 392

11
12 has had it under consideration and reports same with
13 recommendation that it DO PASS, amended as follows:

14
15 1. On page 3, line 14, after "a" insert public school".

16
17 2. On page 6, lines 5 and 6, strike "unless waived by the
18 state superintendent",

19 and thence referred to the FINANCE COMMITTEE.

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22 Respectfully submitted,

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Cynthi a Nava, Chai rman

Adopted _____ Not

Adopted _____

(Chi ef Clerk)

(Chi ef Clerk)

Date _____

The roll call vote was 5 For 1 Against

Yes: 5

No: Adai r

Excused: Boi tano, Duran, Jenni ngs, Lopez

Absent: None

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