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HOUSE MEMORIAL 57

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

INTRODUCED BY

E. Diane Torres-Velásquez and G. Andrés Romero
and Patricia Roybal Caballero

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT
A STUDY OF BEST PRACTICES FOR CREDENTIALING BILINGUAL
EDUCATORS.

WHEREAS, non-English speaking and bilingual students in
New Mexico often face significant achievement gaps in academic
performance, graduation rates and college and career readiness;
and

WHEREAS, research demonstrates that well-implemented
bilingual multicultural education strengthens executive
function, expands career and higher education opportunities and
improves academic achievement for students; and

WHEREAS, there is a chronic shortage of skilled and
qualified professional bilingual educators available to meet
the need for bilingual education in New Mexico's public

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1 schools; and

2 WHEREAS, the quality of bilingual education depends
3 substantially on the performance of professional bilingual
4 educators, and, like all other states, New Mexico requires
5 professional educators to hold credentials in the form of an
6 endorsement granted by the state in order to teach in the
7 public schools; and

8 WHEREAS, each state, including New Mexico, establishes and
9 enforces standards and requirements for earning credentials for
10 public school teachers, and these certification standards and
11 requirements are among the ways in which states exercise their
12 constitutional responsibility for governing public education;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, New Mexico has a legitimate interest in the
15 quality of training programs for credentialing professional
16 bilingual educators because completion of a professional
17 preparation program for bilingual educators is critical for
18 their subsequent professional performance; and

19 WHEREAS, evaluating best practices for credentialing
20 bilingual educators, including English as a second language
21 instructors, would help inform legislative recommendations and
22 actions to increase the number of bilingual educators in the
23 state and thereby help strengthen educational outcomes for
24 bilingual students; and

25 WHEREAS, the public education department is responsible

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1 for the implementation of bilingual education programs and
2 oversees the bilingual multicultural education advisory council
3 that consists of selected educators, school leaders and higher
4 education faculty; and

5 WHEREAS, the public education department is responsible
6 for the credentialing of bilingual educators in the state,
7 including the promulgation of rules determining the education,
8 training and experience required to receive an endorsement as a
9 professional bilingual educator; and

10 WHEREAS, the state's higher education institutions that
11 teach courses required for certification of bilingual educators
12 and professional organizations such as the New Mexico
13 association for bilingual education and the New Mexico
14 coalition for the majority, as well as other professional
15 community organizations, include researchers, parents and
16 higher education faculty with substantial experience in
17 preparing bilingual education teachers to teach and supporting
18 those teachers in practice; and

19 WHEREAS, these organizations are well-versed in current
20 best practices and current effective policies in the bilingual
21 and English as a second language classrooms in New Mexico; and

22 WHEREAS, there is a critical need for the public education
23 department to communicate, consult and coordinate with the
24 state's higher education institutions and other relevant
25 professional organizations in the process of promulgating rules

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1 for credentialing bilingual educators in the state;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative
4 education study committee be requested to conduct a study in
5 consultation with the public education department, the state's
6 higher education institutions and members of the above-named
7 professional organizations and other bilingual education
8 professionals to study best practices for credentialing
9 bilingual educators, including English as a second language
10 instructors, and to publish a report of its findings and
11 recommendations by August 15, 2026; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee's study include
13 conclusions and recommendations regarding ways to improve
14 communication and coordination among the public education
15 department, the state's higher education institutions and other
16 relevant professional organizations when determining best
17 practices for the purpose of promulgating rules for
18 credentialing bilingual educators in the state; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
20 transmitted to the legislative education study committee, the
21 secretary of higher education, the secretary of public
22 education, the New Mexico association for bilingual education
23 and the New Mexico coalition for the majority.