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HOUSE BILL 47

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001

INTRODUCED BY

Danice R. Picraux

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

AN ACT

**RELATING TO EDUCATION; REQUIRING A STATEWIDE ONE- TO
THREE- YEAR MENTORSHIP PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN BEGINNING TEACHERS;
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] STATEWIDE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN
BEGINNING TEACHERS-- PURPOSE-- BOARD DUTIES-- DEPARTMENT DUTIES. --**

**A. The purpose of the statewide teacher mentorship
program is to provide an effective transition into the teaching
field, ensure success in teaching, improve the achievement of
students and retain capable teachers in the classroom.**

**B. The state board shall develop a framework for a
statewide one- to three-year mentorship program for beginning**

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1 teachers with standard level one, alternative or substandard
2 certificates. The state board shall work with public school
3 educators, representatives from teacher preparation programs
4 and the commission on higher education to establish the
5 framework.

6 C. The framework shall include:

7 (1) individual support and assistance for
8 each beginning teacher from a designated support provider or
9 mentor;

10 (2) structured training and compensation for
11 support providers or mentors;

12 (3) ongoing, formative evaluation that is
13 used for the improvement of teaching practice;

14 (4) procedures for a summative evaluation of
15 beginning teacher performance during the first three years of
16 teaching, including an annual assessment of suitability for
17 license renewal, and for the final assessment of beginning
18 teachers seeking level two licensure;

19 (5) support from local school boards, school
20 district administrators and other school district personnel;
21 and

22 (6) regular review and evaluation of the
23 teacher mentorship program.

24 D. The department of education shall:

25 (1) establish criteria for participation in a

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1 teacher mentorship program based on the current licensing
2 structure;

3 (2) require submission and approval of each
4 school district's teacher mentorship program;

5 (3) provide technical assistance to school
6 districts that do not have a well-developed teacher mentorship
7 program in place; and

8 (4) encourage school districts to collaborate
9 with teacher preparation programs at institutions of higher
10 education, career educators, educational organizations and
11 other state and community leaders in the mentorship of
12 beginning teachers. "

13 Section 2. APPROPRIATION. -- Three million five hundred
14 fifty thousand dollars (\$3,550,000) is appropriated from the
15 general fund to the state department of public education for
16 expenditure in fiscal year 2002 for the statewide mentorship
17 program for beginning teachers. The department shall
18 distribute funds to local school districts based on the number
19 of first-, second- and third-year participants in the
20 mentorship program in each school district. Any unexpended or
21 unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2002
22 shall revert to the general fund.