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SENATE BILL 353

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

Ben D. Altamirano

AN ACT

RELATING TO STATE AGENCIES AND DEPARTMENTS; CREATING THE OFFICE OF HISPANIC AFFAIRS; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

Section 1. SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as the "Hispanic Affairs Act".

Section 2. OFFICE CREATED--POWERS AND DUTIES.--

A. The "office of Hispanic affairs" is created and is administratively attached to the human services department.

B. The governor shall appoint a director, who shall work at the pleasure of the governor. The director shall employ other necessary employees, who shall be subject to the provisions of the Personnel Act.

C. The office shall:

(1) study issues important to Hispanics,

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 including history and culture; education, scholarships and
2 other financial assistance for education and career
3 development; economic and social issues concerning jobs,
4 housing, discrimination, youth, family support and crime; and
5 health care, maternal and child health, teen pregnancy and
6 health care coverage and access;

7 (2) secure recognition of Hispanics'
8 accomplishments and contributions to New Mexico and the United
9 States;

10 (3) cooperate with and assist public and
11 private entities dealing with issues important to Hispanics;

12 (4) where appropriate, conduct periodic
13 conferences throughout the state to:

14 (a) inform Hispanics of the
15 opportunities available to them through public and private
16 sources;

17 (b) encourage Hispanics to share their
18 history and culture with other New Mexicans;

19 (c) ensure participation by Hispanics in
20 the social and political processes of their communities; and

21 (d) provide a forum for discussion of
22 issues affecting the Hispanic community; and

23 (5) otherwise act as an advocate for Hispanic
24 residents of New Mexico.

25 D. Additionally, the office shall:

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 (1) act as a clearinghouse for information
2 important to the Hispanic community;

3 (2) function as the coordinating office for
4 all services and activities of state agencies and programs
5 pertaining to Hispanics;

6 (3) encourage funding and implementation of
7 education and training programs for Hispanics;

8 (4) promote and develop programs about
9 community resources designed to meet the needs of Hispanics;

10 (5) prepare and submit a budget for the
11 office; and

12 (6) publish an annual report on the activities
13 and services of the office.

14 E. The office may:

15 (1) adopt and promulgate rules pursuant to the
16 State Rules Act to carry out the duties of the office;

17 (2) accept gifts, grants, donations, bequests
18 and devises from any source to be used to carry out its duties;
19 and

20 (3) enter into contracts.

21 Section 3. FUND CREATED--ADMINISTRATION.--The "office of
22 Hispanic affairs fund" is created in the state treasury. The
23 fund shall consist of appropriations, gifts, grants, donations
24 and bequests. Money in the fund at the end of any fiscal year
25 shall revert to the general fund. The fund shall be

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1 administered by the office of Hispanic affairs, and
2 disbursements from the fund shall be made on warrants drawn by
3 the secretary of finance and administration pursuant to
4 vouchers signed by the director of the office or the director's
5 authorized representative.

6 Section 4. APPROPRIATION. --Two hundred fifty thousand
7 dollars (\$250,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
8 office of Hispanic affairs fund for expenditure in fiscal year
9 2006 and subsequent fiscal years to pay the costs of
10 establishing the office, hiring staff and carrying out the
11 provisions of the Hispanic Affairs Act. Any unexpended or
12 unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year
13 shall revert to the general fund.

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