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SENATE BILL 785

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

INTRODUCED BY

Bernadette M Sanchez

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH; ESTABLISHING CULTURAL COMPETENCE EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS IN CERTAIN HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

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

Section 1. ~~[NEW MATERIAL]~~ CULTURAL COMPETENCE HEALTH EDUCATION REQUIRED. --

A. New Mexico institutions of higher education offering health education programs, both those culminating in a specific health-related degree and those resulting in completion of a curriculum in health-related technical competence, shall include courses ensuring knowledge of cultural awareness and competence in their respective health service fields. The curricula shall be required in four-year institutions; branch, community and junior colleges; and vocational and trade schools offering higher education degrees.

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1 The curricula shall be required at the undergraduate and at the
2 graduate level; provided that health students who have
3 successfully completed cultural competence course work at the
4 undergraduate level may be exempt from duplicate requirements
5 at the graduate study level.

6 B. The commission on higher education shall lead a
7 task force on cultural competence composed of health curricula
8 specialists from each New Mexico institution of higher
9 education, a single representative from each New Mexico health-
10 related licensing board, a single representative from each
11 statewide health-related professional association, one
12 representative from the New Mexico health policy commission,
13 one representative from the commission on the status of women,
14 one representative each from statewide Hispanic and Native
15 American organizations, two representatives from the Indian
16 affairs department and two representatives from the department
17 of health.

18 C. The task force shall study and make
19 recommendations on specific course curricula for each health-
20 related education field offered. The course work shall be
21 designed to be offered electronically and through various
22 distance-education methods and media so as to minimize
23 duplication and expense. Cultural competence health courses
24 shall include:

- 25 (1) cross-cultural communication;

1 (2) culturally and linguistically appropriate
2 health policy considerations;

3 (3) exploration of health beliefs and
4 explanatory models;

5 (4) culturally competent health care delivery;

6 (5) health disparities, privilege and equity
7 factors in the health system; and

8 (6) culturally and linguistically competent
9 care supported by policy, administration and practice.

10 Section 2. A new section of the Uniform Licensing Act is
11 enacted to read:

12 "[NEW MATERIAL] HEALTH PROFESSIONAL BOARDS--
13 RECOMMENDATIONS. --The boards of health-related licensed
14 professions regulated under Chapter 61, Articles 2, 3, 4, 5A,
15 6, 7A, 8, 9, 9A, 10, 11, 12A, 12B, 12C, 12D, 12E, 13, 14A, 14B,
16 14D, 14E and 17A NMSA 1978 shall study and recommend to the
17 governor and the legislative finance committee by August 2006
18 the continuing education courses to be required for licensure
19 and license renewal by members of their respective professions.
20 In preparing their recommendations, the boards shall consider
21 the course curricula recommended for adoption at New Mexico
22 institutions of higher education by the commission on higher
23 education's task force on cultural competence."