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AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; ENACTING THE HISPANIC EDUCATION ACT;
CREATING THE HISPANIC EDUCATION LIAISON OF THE PUBLIC
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT; PROVIDING POWERS AND DUTIES.

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:

"SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as the "Hispanic
Education Act"."

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

"PURPOSE.--The purpose of the Hispanic Education Act is
to:

A. provide for the study, development and
implementation of educational systems that affect the
educational success of Hispanic students to close the
achievement gap and increase graduation rates;

B. encourage and foster parental involvement in
the education of their children; and

C. provide mechanisms for parents, community and
business organizations, public schools, school districts,
charter schools, public post-secondary educational
institutions, the department and state and local policymakers
to work together to improve educational opportunities for

1 Hispanic students for the purpose of closing the achievement
2 gap, increasing graduation rates and increasing
3 post-secondary enrollment, retention and completion."

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

6 "DEFINITION.--As used in the Hispanic Education Act,
7 "liaison" means the Hispanic education liaison."

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

10 "HISPANIC EDUCATION LIAISON--CREATED--DUTIES.--

11 A. The "Hispanic education liaison" is created in
12 the department.

13 B. The liaison shall:

14 (1) focus on issues related and
15 implementations to Hispanic education and advise the
16 secretary on the development and implementation of policy
17 regarding the education of Hispanic students;

18 (2) advise the department and the commission
19 on the development and implementation of the five-year
20 strategic plan for public elementary and secondary education
21 in the state as the plan relates to Hispanic student
22 education;

23 (3) assist and be assisted by other staff in
24 the department to improve elementary, secondary and
25 post-secondary educational outcomes for Hispanic students;

1 (4) serve as a resource to enable school
2 districts and charter schools to provide equitable and
3 culturally relevant learning environments, educational
4 opportunities and culturally relevant instructional materials
5 for Hispanic students enrolled in public schools;

6 (5) support and consult with the Hispanic
7 education advisory council; and

8 (6) support school districts and charter
9 schools to recruit parents on site-based and school district
10 committees that represent the ethnic diversity of the
11 community."

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

14 "HISPANIC EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL.--

15 A. The "Hispanic education advisory council" is
16 created as an advisory council to the secretary. The council
17 shall advise the secretary on matters related to improving
18 public school education for Hispanic students, increasing
19 parent involvement and community engagement in the education
20 of Hispanic students and increasing the number of Hispanic
21 high school graduates who succeed in post-secondary academic,
22 professional or vocational education.

23 B. The secretary shall appoint no more than
24 twenty-three members to the council who are knowledgeable
25 about and interested in the education of Hispanic students,

1 including representatives of public schools; post-secondary
2 education and teacher preparation programs; parents; Hispanic
3 cultural, community and business organizations; other
4 community and business organizations; and other interested
5 persons. The secretary shall give due regard to geographic
6 representation. Members shall serve at the pleasure of the
7 secretary.

8 C. The council shall elect a chairperson and such
9 other officers as it deems necessary.

10 D. The council shall meet as necessary, but at
11 least twice each year.

12 E. The council shall advise the secretary on
13 matters related to Hispanic education in New Mexico.

14 F. Members of the council shall not receive per
15 diem and mileage or other compensation for their services."

16 Section 6. A new section of the Public School Code is
17 enacted to read:

18 "STATEWIDE STATUS REPORT.--

19 A. The department, in collaboration with the
20 higher education department, shall submit an annual preschool
21 through post-secondary statewide Hispanic education status
22 report no later than November 15 to the governor and the
23 legislature through the legislative education study
24 committee. A copy shall be provided to the legislative
25 library in the legislative council service.

1 B. The status report shall include the following
2 information, by school district, by charter school and
3 statewide, which may be compiled from data otherwise required
4 to be submitted to the department:

5 (1) Hispanic student achievement at all
6 grades;

7 (2) attendance for all grades;

8 (3) the graduation rates for Hispanic
9 students;

10 (4) the number of Hispanic students in
11 schools that make adequate yearly progress and in schools at
12 each level of school improvement or restructuring; and

13 (5) the number and type of bilingual and
14 multicultural programs in each school district and charter
15 school.

16 C. The status report shall include the following
17 information, by post-secondary educational institution, which
18 may be compiled from data otherwise required to be submitted
19 to the higher education department:

20 (1) Hispanic student enrollment;

21 (2) Hispanic student retention; and

22 (3) Hispanic student completion rates."

23 Section 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the
24 provisions of this act is July 1, 2010. _____