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LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS
55th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2022

Bill Number	<u>HM32</u>	Sponsor	<u>Herndon</u>
Tracking Number	<u>.222205.1</u>	Committee Referrals	<u>HEC</u>
Short Title	<u>Teaching of Multicultural Historical Events</u>		
Analyst	<u>Estupiñan</u>	Original Date	<u>2/3/2022</u>
		Last Updated	<u></u>

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Memorial 32 (HM32) requests the LESC to collaborate with the Public Education Department (PED), the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA), and the National Education Association-New Mexico on a task force that focuses on developing a comprehensive plan to enhance teaching of multicultural historical events.

The task force would develop standards on teaching courses that involve human rights, with a focus on the study of genocide, slavery, and the Holocaust. They are also asked to propose strategies for integrating these standards into existing courses in middle and high schools.

Further, the task force would be responsible for designing instructional materials that prepare students to

- Understand acts and causes of mass violence;
- Respect cultural diversity and recognize the importance of international human rights;
- Recognize the importance of civic engagement and personal responsibility;
- Reflect on individual and societal roles in addressing misinformation, indifference, and discrimination;
- Understand the context of patterns in individual and group behavior;
- Recognize the effects of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping;
- Examine the history of discrimination in New Mexico;
- Reflect on strategies for moving forward while remedying past injustices.

The memorial also requests a pilot program of 10 schools to assess the designed teaching method's effectiveness and that the LESC report findings, recommendations and pilot program options by December 31, 2022.

FISCAL IMPACT

Legislative memorials do not carry appropriations. SM12, however, would require staff time and agency resources at the LESC, PED, and DFA.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

As a multicultural state, New Mexico is uniquely positioned to play a leading role in designing and integrating inclusive standards that reflect the identities and experiences of historically marginalized communities. While this memorial directs a focus on the study of genocide, slavery, and the Holocaust, students have an opportunity to explore and reflect on the ongoing effects of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping. Analyzing these events through an international lens also helps students in seeing themselves as part of a global community where each person plays a role in shaping events throughout the world.

The widespread availability and usage of social media and other online platforms has contributed to the significant growth of misinformation. Ensuring every student is prepared to identify misinformation lays the groundwork for encouraging active civic engagement where those students recognize their personal responsibility in the communities where they identify as members.

Using a task force to design and oversee a pilot program encourages community participation in designing and integrating these inclusive standards while ensuring Holocaust and social justice leaders from New Mexico play an active role in that process.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

PED is currently undergoing the process of revising social studies standards, where much of the content in this memorial would conceivably be integrated. While PED has not released the final standards for dissemination to school districts, some of the language in those standards may mirror the content requested in this memorial.

RELATED BILLS

Relates to HB91, which would limit the teaching of concepts related to race and ethnicity.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files

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