

1 SENATE BILL

2 **57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Michael Padilla

10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; CREATING THE HIGH SCHOOL WATER
12 MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION PROGRAM AS A TWO-YEAR PILOT
13 PROJECT; ASSIGNING DUTIES TO THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT;
14 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

17 **SECTION 1.** A new section of the Public School Code is
18 enacted to read:

19 "[NEW MATERIAL] HIGH SCHOOL WATER MANAGEMENT AND
20 CONSERVATION PROGRAM--PILOT PROJECT--REPORTING AND
21 EVALUATION.--

22 A. The "high school water management and
23 conservation program" is created as a two-year pilot project
24 that creates a one-credit, elective high school course to study
25 the feasibility of providing practical environmental education

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1 that prepares high school students for careers in water
2 management and conservation.

3 B. The department shall:

4 (1) administer the high school water
5 management and conservation program and develop a suitable
6 curriculum for the program in collaboration with the higher
7 education department, the department of health, the state
8 engineer and Indian nations, tribes and pueblos;

9 (2) determine the criteria and procedures for
10 selecting three high schools to participate in the program;
11 provided that the high schools shall be selected from one class
12 A county, one class B high valuation county and one class B low
13 valuation county;

14 (3) establish reporting and evaluation
15 requirements for the participating schools, including student
16 and program assessments; and

17 (4) provide interim and final reports annually
18 to the legislature and the governor on the efficacy of the
19 program.

20 C. The department may use up to four percent of any
21 appropriation made by the legislature for the high school water
22 management and conservation program for professional
23 development for participating educators and department
24 administrative costs."

25 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.--Five million dollars

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(\$5,000,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the public education department for expenditure in fiscal years 2027 and 2028 for curriculum development and operational expenses, including teacher salaries, for the high school water management and conservation program. Any unexpended balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2028 shall revert to the general fund.

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