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SENATE BILL 688

43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1997

INTRODUCED BY

NANCY E. RODRIGUEZ

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC EDUCATION; AMENDING SECTION 22-2-8.3 NMSA 1978 (BEING LAWS 1986, CHAPTER 33, SECTION 4, AS AMENDED) TO REQUIRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO OFFER SIGN LANGUAGE AS AN ELECTIVE.

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

Section 1. Section 22-2-8.3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1986, Chapter 33, Section 4, as amended) is amended to read:

"22-2-8.3. SUBJECT AREAS--MINIMUM INSTRUCTIONAL AREAS REQUIRED--ACCREDITATION.--

A. The state board shall require instruction in specific subject areas as provided in Subsections B through F of this section. Any public school or school district failing to meet these minimum requirements shall not be accredited by the state board.

B. All first and second grade classes shall provide

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1 daily instruction in language arts skills, including phonics,
2 and mathematics.

3 C. All third grade classes shall provide daily
4 instruction in language arts skills and mathematics.

5 D. All fourth, fifth and sixth grade classes shall
6 provide instruction in language arts skills, with an emphasis on
7 writing and editing; mathematics; science; and social studies,
8 including geography. The following subject areas shall be
9 offered in the remaining instructional time: art; music;
10 physical education; health; and computer literacy, including a
11 general familiarization with computers and support in the areas
12 of mathematics and writing through word processing.

13 E. All seventh grade classes shall provide
14 instruction in English, with an emphasis on grammar and writing;
15 communication skills or science; New Mexico history and
16 geography; mathematics; and physical fitness. Remaining
17 instructional time may be used for electives listed in
18 Subsection G of this section.

19 F. All eighth grade classes shall provide
20 instruction in English, mathematics, United States history and
21 science. Remaining instructional time may be used for electives
22 listed in Subsection G of this section.

23 G. The electives authorized in Subsections E and F
24 of this section are art, industrial arts, chorus, band, home
25 economics, typing, creative writing, speech, drama, Spanish,

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1 computer literacy, sign language and other electives approved by
2 the state board.

3 H. Sign language shall be an elective course offered
4 by high schools. "

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1 FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
2 FIRST SESSION, 1997
3
4

SB 688/a

5 March 5, 1997
6

7 Mr. President:
8

9 Your EDUCATION COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred
10

11 SENATE BILL 688
12

13 has had it under consideration and reports same with
14 recommendation that it DO PASS, amended as follows:
15

16 1. On page 3, line 1, after the comma insert "American".
17

18 2. On page 3, lines 3 and 4, strike Subsection H in its
19 entirety and insert in lieu thereof the following new section:
20

21 "Section 2. Section 22-2-8.4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1986,
22 Chapter 33, Section 5, as amended by Laws 1995, Chapter 174,
23 Section 1 and also by Laws 1995, Chapter 180, Section 1) is
24 amended to read:
25

"22-2-8.4. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS. --

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A. At the end of the eighth grade or during the ninth grade, each student shall prepare an individual program of study for grades nine through twelve. The program of study shall be signed by a student's parent or guardian.

B. Beginning with students entering the ninth grade in the 1986-87 school year, successful completion of a minimum of twenty-three units shall be required for graduation. These units shall be as follows:

(1) four units in English, with major emphasis on grammar and literature;

(2) three units in mathematics;

(3) two units in science, one of which shall have a laboratory component;

(4) three units in social science, which shall

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include United States history and geography, world history and geography, and government and economics;

(5) one unit in physical fitness;

(6) one unit in communication skills, with major emphasis on writing and speaking, which may include a language other than English; and

(7) nine elective units. Only the following elective units shall be counted toward meeting the requirements for graduation: fine arts, i.e., music, band, chorus and art; practical arts; physical education; languages other than English; speech; drama; vocational education; mathematics; science; English; R. O. T. C.; social science; computer science; health education; American sign language; and other electives approved by the state board.

With the approval of the local school board, participation on an athletic team or in an athletic sport during the school day may count toward fulfillment of the physical education required unit.

C. Final examinations shall be administered to all

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students in all classes offered for credit.

D. Beginning with students entering the ninth grade in the 1986-87 school year, no student shall receive a high school diploma who has not passed a state competency examination in the subject areas of reading, English, math, science and social science. Beginning with the 1996-97 school year, the state competency examinations on social science shall include a section on the constitution of the United States and the constitution of New Mexico. If a student exits from the school system at the end of grade twelve without having passed a state competency examination, he shall receive an appropriate state certificate indicating the number of credits earned and the grade completed. If within five years after a student exits from the school system he takes and passes the state competency examination, he may receive a high school diploma.

E. The state board may establish a policy to provide for administrative interpretations to clarify curricular and testing

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provisions of the Public School Code."",

and thence referred to the PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Nava, Chairman

Adopted _____ Not Adopted _____

(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

Date _____

The roll call vote was 9 For 0 Against

Yes: 9

No: 0

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Excused: Pinto

Absent: None

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FIRST SESSION, 1997

March 15, 1997

Mr. President:

Your PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, to whom has been
referred

SENATE BILL 688, as amended

has had it under consideration and reports same with
recommendation that it DO PASS.

Respectfully submitted,

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Shannon Robinson, Chairman

Adopted _____ Not Adopted _____
(Chief Clerk) (Chief Clerk)

Date _____

The roll call vote was 5 For 0 Against

Yes: 5

No: 0

Excused: Adair, Garcia, Vernon, Smith

Absent: None

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State of New Mexico House of Representatives

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION, 1997

March 21, 1997

Mr. Speaker:

Your EDUCATION COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred

SENATE BILL 688, as amended

**has had it under consideration and reports same with
recommendation that it DO PASS.**

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel F. Vigil, Chairman

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Adopted _____ Not Adopted _____
(Chief Clerk) (Chief Clerk)

Date _____

The roll call vote was 8 For 0 Against

Yes: 8

Excused: Mallory, McSherry, Nicely, Trujillo, W.C. Williams

Absent: None

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