

HOUSE BILL 537

**57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

INTRODUCED BY

Raymundo Lara and Eleanor Chávez

AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; REQUIRING POST-SECONDARY  
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO DESIGNATE HIGHER EDUCATION LIAISONS  
FOR STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS; PRESCRIBING DUTIES;  
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] HIGHER EDUCATION LIAISON.--

A. Each post-secondary educational institution  
enumerated in Article 12, Section 11 of the constitution of New  
Mexico, except the New Mexico military institute, New Mexico  
school for the blind and visually impaired and New Mexico  
school for the deaf, shall designate one full-time-equivalent  
staff member to act as a higher education liaison for current  
and incoming students experiencing homelessness. The staff  
member shall be designated from one of the following offices or

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1 departments within the institution:

- 2 (1) financial aid;
- 3 (2) student services or affairs;
- 4 (3) student housing; or
- 5 (4) any other appropriate office capable of
- 6 performing the liaison's duties.

7 B. The higher education liaison shall:

- 8 (1) identify and contact students who
- 9 indicated being homeless or at risk of homelessness on a free
- 10 application for federal student aid;
- 11 (2) inform incoming and enrolled students
- 12 experiencing homelessness about resources and assistance
- 13 available on campus and within the community in meeting basic
- 14 needs;
- 15 (3) assist students experiencing homelessness
- 16 with completing applications for other available financial aid;
- 17 (4) assist students experiencing homelessness
- 18 with managing coursework; and
- 19 (5) publish training materials for faculty and
- 20 staff of the institution to recognize signs of homelessness in
- 21 students and refer the students to the higher education liaison
- 22 and publish information about on-campus and community resources
- 23 for students experiencing homelessness.

24 C. The higher education department shall:

- 25 (1) work with the New Mexico basic needs

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1 consortium to provide training to ensure best practices by the  
2 higher education liaisons, faculty and staff regarding students  
3 experiencing homelessness; and

4 (2) administer an annual survey regarding  
5 students experiencing homelessness and publish a report of the  
6 survey on the higher education department's website.

7 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.**--Five hundred thousand dollars  
8 (\$500,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the higher  
9 education department for expenditure in fiscal year 2026 to  
10 provide training to higher education liaisons, faculty and  
11 staff regarding students experiencing homelessness. Any  
12 unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of  
13 fiscal year 2026 shall revert to the general fund.