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**SENATE BILL 540**

**45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001**

**INTRODUCED BY**

**Joseph J. Carraro**

**AN ACT**

**RELATING TO ITALIAN AMERICANS; CREATING AN OFFICE OF ITALIAN  
AMERICAN AFFAIRS; PRESCRIBING POWERS AND DUTIES; MAKING AN  
APPROPRIATION.**

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

**Section 1. SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as the  
"Italian American Affairs Act".**

**Section 2. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Italian American  
Affairs Act:**

**A. "fund" means the office on Italian American  
affairs fund; and**

**B. "office" means the office on Italian American  
affairs.**

**Section 3. OFFICE CREATED-- POWERS AND DUTIES.--**

**A. The "office on Italian American affairs" is**

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1 created and attached administratively to the human services  
2 department.

3 B. The governor shall appoint a director, who  
4 shall work at the pleasure of the governor. The director  
5 shall employ other necessary employees, who shall be subject  
6 to the provisions of the Personnel Act.

7 C. The office shall:

8 (1) study issues important to Italian  
9 Americans, including history and culture; education,  
10 scholarships and other financial assistance for education and  
11 career development; economic and social problems and issues  
12 such as jobs, housing, discrimination, family support, youth  
13 idleness and crime; and health care, maternal and child  
14 health, teen pregnancy, access and other health issues;

15 (2) secure recognition of Italian Americans'  
16 accomplishments and contributions to New Mexico and the United  
17 States;

18 (3) cooperate with and assist public and  
19 private entities dealing with issues important to Italian  
20 Americans;

21 (4) direct the operations of the office;

22 (5) where appropriate, conduct periodic  
23 conferences throughout the state to inform Italian Americans  
24 of the opportunities available to them through state and  
25 private sources, to encourage them to share their history and

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1 culture with other New Mexicans and participate in the social  
2 and political processes of their communities and to learn from  
3 conference participants their needs and problems; and

4 (6) otherwise act as an advocate for Italian  
5 American citizens of New Mexico.

6 D. Additionally, the office shall:

7 (1) act as a clearinghouse for information  
8 important to the Italian American community;

9 (2) function as the coordinating office for  
10 all services and activities of state agencies and programs  
11 pertaining to Italian Americans;

12 (3) encourage funding and implementation of  
13 training programs and other opportunities for Italian  
14 Americans;

15 (4) promote and develop programs about  
16 community resources designed to meet the needs of Italian  
17 Americans;

18 (5) prepare and submit a budget for the  
19 office; and

20 (6) publish an annual report on the  
21 activities and services of the office.

22 E. The office may:

23 (1) adopt and promulgate rules in accordance  
24 with the State Rules Act to carry out the duties of the  
25 office;

