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HOUSE BILL 123

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002

INTRODUCED BY

Rick Miera

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; REQUIRING THAT NEW MEXICO STATE HISTORY, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON THE HISTORY OF LAND GRANTS AND NATIVE AMERICANS, BE TAUGHT IN NEW MEXICO HIGH SCHOOLS.

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

Section 1. Section 22-2-8.4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1986, Chapter 33, Section 5, as amended by Laws 2001, Chapter 257, Section 1 and by Laws 2001, Chapter 276, Section 1) is amended to read:

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

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

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1 grade in the 1986-87 school year, successful completion of a
2 minimum of twenty-three units shall be required for
3 graduation. These units shall be as follows:

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

6 (2) three units in mathematics;

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

9 (4) [~~three~~] four units in social science,
10 which shall include United States history and geography; world
11 history and geography; New Mexico state history, with an
12 emphasis on the history of land grants and Native Americans;
13 and government and economics;

14 (5) one unit in physical [~~fitness~~] education;

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

18 (7) [~~nine~~] eight elective units. Only the
19 following elective units shall be counted toward meeting the
20 requirements for graduation: fine arts, i.e., music, band,
21 chorus and art; practical arts; physical education; languages
22 other than English; speech; drama; vocational education;
23 mathematics; science; English; [~~R.O.T.C.~~] reserve officers'
24 training corps; social science; computer science; health
25 education; American sign language; and other electives

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1 approved by the state board.

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

6 C. Final examinations shall be administered to all
7 students in all classes offered for credit.

8 D. No student shall receive a high school diploma
9 who has not passed a state graduation examination in the
10 subject areas of reading, English, math, writing, science and
11 social science. Beginning with the 1996-97 school year, the
12 state graduation examinations on social science shall include
13 a section on the constitution of the United States and the
14 constitution of New Mexico. If a student exits from the
15 school system at the end of grade twelve without having passed
16 a state graduation examination, he shall receive an
17 appropriate state certificate indicating the number of credits
18 earned and the grade completed. If within five years after a
19 student exits from the school system he takes and passes the
20 state graduation examination, he may receive a high school
21 diploma.

22 E. The state board may establish a policy to
23 provide for administrative interpretations to clarify
24 curricular and testing provisions of the Public School
25 Code. "

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