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SENATE BILL 332

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

INTRODUCED BY

Ben D. Altamirano

AN ACT

**RELATING TO EDUCATION; CREATING THE TEACHER QUALITY INVESTMENT
FUND; ESTABLISHING A COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM TO FUND QUALITY
ENHANCEMENTS IN TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS AT INSTITUTIONS OF
HIGHER EDUCATION; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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

Section 1. TEACHER QUALITY INVESTMENT FUND--USE. --

**A. The "teacher quality investment fund" is
created in the state treasury. The fund shall consist of
appropriations and any gifts, grants and donations made to the
fund and shall be administered by the commission on higher
education. Earnings from investment of the fund shall be
credited to the fund, and balances in the fund at the end of
any fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund.**

Disbursements from the fund shall be made by warrant of the

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1 department of finance and administration pursuant to vouchers
2 signed by the executive director of the commission on higher
3 education.

4 B. Money in the teacher quality investment fund is
5 appropriated to the commission on higher education to develop
6 and administer a program to provide grants to institutions of
7 higher education to implement quality enhancements in teacher
8 education programs, including efforts designed to increase the
9 number of graduates from those programs. Institutions of
10 higher education shall apply to the commission on a
11 competitive basis for the grants and shall be required to
12 provide matching funds. The commission shall use no more than
13 three percent of the money appropriated to the fund in any
14 fiscal year for administration of the program. The remaining
15 money in the fund shall be used solely to make grants to
16 institutions of higher education for the implementation of
17 quality enhancements in teacher education programs in
18 accordance with the provisions of this section.

19 C. The commission on higher education shall
20 provide by rule procedures for application and award of grants
21 from the teacher quality investment fund. To assure that
22 funds will be used for innovative new programs that have the
23 maximum impact, the commission shall establish guidelines for
24 selecting projects for funding that give priority to proposals
25 that:

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1 (1) promote student learning by providing a
2 high-quality standards-based teacher preparation experience;

3 (2) incorporate in their approach the best
4 practices in use in New Mexico or in the nation;

5 (3) have the greatest potential, both
6 immediately and over the long term, to increase the supply of
7 quality teachers in New Mexico;

8 (4) promote collaborative partnership
9 efforts among universities, community colleges and schools;
10 and

11 (5) include an evaluation plan that
12 incorporates state and federal accountability requirements, as
13 appropriate.

14 Section 2. APPROPRIATION. -- One million two hundred fifty
15 thousand dollars (\$1,250,000) is appropriated from the general
16 fund to the teacher quality investment fund for expenditure in
17 fiscal year 2003 and subsequent fiscal years by the commission
18 on higher education to develop and administer a program to
19 make grants to institutions of higher education to implement
20 enhancements in teacher education programs in accordance with
21 the provisions in Section 1 of this act. Any unexpended or
22 unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year
23 shall not revert to the general fund.