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HOUSE BILL 105

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017

INTRODUCED BY

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AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; ENACTING THE INNOVATIONS IN
TEACHING ACT; CREATING THE INNOVATIONS IN TEACHING PROGRAM;
PROVIDING POWERS AND DUTIES; ENCOURAGING TEACHERS TO IMPLEMENT
INNOVATIVE PEDAGOGICAL APPROACHES AND STRATEGIES IN THEIR
CLASSROOMS; GRANTING A WAIVER TO SUCH TEACHERS AND THEIR PUBLIC
SCHOOLS FROM THE USE OF THE RESULTS OF STANDARDS-BASED
ASSESSMENTS IN THEIR TEACHER EVALUATIONS FOR TWO YEARS;
PROVIDING FOR AN APPLICATION, REPORTING AND EVALUATION PROCESS.

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

SECTION 1. A new section of the Public School Code is
enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as the
"Innovations in Teaching Act"."

SECTION 2. A new section of the Public School Code is

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1 enacted to read:

2 "[NEW MATERIAL] FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.--

3 A. The legislature finds that the state-mandated
4 reliance on high-stakes testing for teacher evaluations and
5 public school ratings may stifle teachers' interest in
6 investigating and implementing cutting-edge pedagogy in their
7 classrooms and make school principals wary of allowing teachers
8 to implement such pedagogy.

9 B. The purpose of the Innovations in Teaching Act
10 is to:

11 (1) support teachers' professional standing in
12 determining how they will teach their assigned curricula;

13 (2) give teachers the flexibility to
14 experiment with one or more pedagogical approaches and
15 strategies to engage and teach all their students; and

16 (3) foster the use of innovative teaching that
17 engages students in learning and the love of learning, improves
18 their academic achievement and promotes their success in public
19 school and life."

20 SECTION 3. A new section of the Public School Code is
21 enacted to read:

22 "[NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Innovations
23 in Teaching Act:

24 A. "innovative teaching" means the use of cutting-
25 edge innovations in pedagogical approaches and strategies to

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1 teach a subject or grade;

2 B. "program" means the innovations in teaching
3 program; and

4 C. "teacher" means a primary or secondary classroom
5 teacher who has at least three years of teaching experience and
6 who has been evaluated as highly effective or exemplary in the
7 most recent teacher evaluation prior to participating in the
8 program."

9 SECTION 4. A new section of the Public School Code is
10 enacted to read:

11 "[NEW MATERIAL] INNOVATIONS IN TEACHING PROGRAM CREATED--
12 DEPARTMENT DUTIES--APPLICATIONS--REQUIREMENTS.--

13 A. The "innovations in teaching program" is
14 created. The department may develop and implement the program,
15 including an application and award process and evaluation and
16 reporting requirements, for use in the 2018-2019 and succeeding
17 school years.

18 B. A teacher may apply to the department to
19 participate in the program. Applications shall be submitted by
20 June 30 for the upcoming school year.

21 C. The application shall include:

22 (1) the details of the proposed innovative
23 teaching project and specific goals of the project,
24 particularly as those goals relate to teaching English language
25 learners, minority students, developmentally disabled or

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1 delayed students and students who have become defeated by or
2 uninterested in school;

3 (2) a description of research findings on the
4 proposed innovative teaching project or a description of its
5 successful implementation in other schools in this or other
6 countries;

7 (3) a description of how the innovative
8 teaching project will be used to teach the pertinent curriculum
9 and how it will prepare students to meet the expectations of
10 the common core state standards or other state content and
11 performance standards;

12 (4) examples of lesson plans that will be used
13 in the innovative teaching project;

14 (5) a description of means and measures to
15 determine the success or failure of the innovative teaching
16 project;

17 (6) the length of time, not to exceed three
18 school years, that the teacher proposes to use the described
19 innovative teaching project; and

20 (7) other information the applicant deems
21 appropriate or the department requests.

22 D. The application shall be signed by the teacher
23 and the teacher's school principal.

24 E. The department shall evaluate the application
25 and may request additional information from the applicant. The

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1 department shall notify the teacher and the school principal
2 prior to August 1 whether the application is approved."

3 SECTION 5. A new section of the Public School Code is
4 enacted to read:

5 "[NEW MATERIAL] WAIVER FROM STANDARDS-BASED ASSESSMENT
6 RESULTS.--

7 A. The department may waive the use of the results
8 of the participating teacher's students' standards-based
9 assessments on the teacher's teacher evaluation for up to two
10 years at the request of the teacher and school principal. The
11 department, the teacher and the school principal, working
12 together, may develop other measures of teacher effectiveness
13 or may assign different percentages to the remaining teacher
14 evaluation measures.

15 B. The waivers provided in this section are not
16 assessment waivers. Students of a teacher participating in the
17 program are required to participate in standards-based
18 assessments as provided in the Public School Code."

19 SECTION 6. A new section of the Public School Code is
20 enacted to read:

21 "[NEW MATERIAL] EVALUATIONS AND REPORTS.--

22 A. The teacher shall keep records of each student
23 participating in the innovative teaching project to chart
24 student progress, including short-cycle or other assessments
25 and a measurement of classroom participation and behavior.

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1 When making interim and final reports on the efficacy of the
2 innovative teaching project, reporting on student records shall
3 not include student names.

4 B. The department, the teacher and the school
5 principal shall develop evaluation standards for the innovative
6 teaching project to evaluate its success or failure.

7 C. The department shall report its findings and
8 recommendations for the program and for each innovative
9 teaching project to the governor, the legislative education
10 study committee and every local superintendent.

11 D. If it becomes clear, based on standards-based
12 assessments or other data, that the innovative teaching project
13 is not succeeding, the department may rescind its approval and
14 the project may be redesigned or discontinued before the full
15 term of the project is over."