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SENATE BILL 522

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019

INTRODUCED BY

Mimi Stewart

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC EDUCATION; CREATING A COMMISSION ON EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION; REQUIRING THE COMMISSION TO DEVELOP A LONG-TERM PLAN TO TRANSFORM PUBLIC EDUCATION IN NEW MEXICO.

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] COMMISSION ON EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION--MEMBERS--DUTIES--INTERIM AND FINAL REPORTS.--

A. The "commission on equity and excellence in education" is created as an executive-legislative task force to address issues of educational equity in New Mexico public schools.

B. The chairs and vice chairs of the legislative

1 education study committee and the legislative finance committee
2 and one senator and one representative who are members of the
3 minority party that are appointed by their respective
4 leadership shall be appointed to the commission.

5 C. The secretaries of public education, higher
6 education, children, youth and families and workforce solutions
7 or their designees shall serve on the commission.

8 D. In addition to the members listed in Subsections
9 B and C of this section, an additional twenty-one members who
10 are culturally and geographically diverse and who represent
11 teachers and school principals, school board members, local
12 superintendents, charter schools, school business officials,
13 the business community, post-secondary educational institutions
14 and teacher preparation programs, tribal leaders and parents of
15 public school students shall be appointed as follows:

16 (1) the governor shall appoint nine members;

17 (2) the president pro tempore of the senate
18 shall appoint six members; and

19 (3) the speaker of the house of
20 representatives shall appoint six members.

21 E. To the extent practicable, appointments shall be
22 made to ensure regional representation and ethnic, economic and
23 gender diversity on the commission.

24 F. The lieutenant governor shall serve as the chair
25 of the commission.

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1 G. All appointments to the commission shall be made
2 within thirty days of the effective date of this 2019 act, and
3 the commission shall hold its first meeting by September 1,
4 2019.

5 H. The public education department, legislative
6 education study committee and legislative finance committee
7 shall provide staff for the commission.

8 I. Public members of the commission are entitled to
9 per diem and mileage at the same rate as public employees
10 pursuant to the Per Diem and Mileage Act and shall receive no
11 other compensation, perquisite or allowance if funds are
12 appropriated to the commission.

13 J. The commission is charged with developing a
14 long-term vision and action steps for the legislature,
15 executive, school districts, public schools and colleges of
16 education to consider to ensure New Mexico's public education
17 students are prepared to meet the challenges of a changing
18 national and global economy, prepared for post-secondary
19 education and the workforce and prepared to be successful,
20 civic-minded citizens in the twenty-first century.

21 K. The commission shall review the decision and
22 order, the findings of fact and conclusions of law and the
23 final judgment issued by the first judicial district court in
24 the *Yazzie/Martinez v. State of New Mexico* lawsuit; study
25 high-performing education systems nationally and

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1 internationally to learn best practices; and study how the
2 public education department and the public school system are
3 using annual appropriations to close the achievement gap and
4 improve student learning for all students.

5 L. The commission shall make findings and
6 recommendations that:

7 (1) ensure equitable access to high-quality
8 curriculum, instruction and instructional resources to prepare
9 all students for college, career and civic engagement,
10 including ensuring students have access to curriculum,
11 instruction and instructional resources that are relevant to
12 the cultures, languages, history and experiences of multiethnic
13 students;

14 (2) ensure a diverse, culturally competent
15 educator workforce that is well prepared, stable and culturally
16 and linguistically representative of public school students in
17 the state;

18 (3) provide for whole child supports,
19 including access to high-quality early childhood programs,
20 wraparound services and supportive community partnerships,
21 integrated social and emotional learning and improved parent
22 and family engagement, for all children; and

23 (4) ensure a coordinated and effective
24 governance structure across the multiple state agencies that
25 impact students and their families, school boards and charter

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1 school governing councils, public schools, the public education
2 commission, the business sector and post-secondary educational
3 institutions.

4 M. On or before September 1, 2020 and September 1
5 of each succeeding year, the commission shall provide a
6 preliminary report of its findings and recommendations to the
7 governor, the legislative education study committee and the
8 legislative finance committee.

9 N. On or before June 30, 2023, the commission shall
10 provide its final report to the governor and the legislature
11 and shall present its findings and recommendations to the
12 legislative education study committee and the legislative
13 finance committee."

14 SECTION 2. DELAYED REPEAL.--Section 1 of this act is
15 repealed effective June 30, 2023.