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AN ACT  
RELATING TO PUBLIC EDUCATION; AUTHORIZING PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO  
GRANT DIPLOMAS TO VIETNAM VETERANS.

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:

"HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS--VIETNAM CONFLICT VETERANS.--

A. Notwithstanding any other provision of the  
Public School Code, a local school board may issue a high  
school diploma to a Vietnam conflict veteran who:

(1) is an honorably discharged member of the  
armed forces of the United States;

(2) was scheduled to graduate from high  
school after February 28, 1961 and before May 7, 1975;

(3) was a resident of New Mexico and  
attended a high school in the locality of the current school  
district; and

(4) left high school before graduation to  
serve in the Vietnam conflict.

B. A local school board may issue a high school  
diploma to a qualifying Vietnam conflict veteran regardless  
of whether the veteran holds a high school equivalency  
credential or is deceased.

C. The department shall adopt and promulgate rules SB 99  
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1 to carry out the provisions of this section, including:

2 (1) an application form to be submitted to  
3 the local school board by the Vietnam conflict veteran or a  
4 person acting on behalf of the veteran if the veteran is  
5 incapacitated or deceased; and

6 (2) what constitutes acceptable evidence of  
7 eligibility for a diploma."

8 SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the  
9 provisions of this act is July 1, 2020. \_\_\_\_\_

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