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SENATE MEMORIAL 60

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023

INTRODUCED BY

Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales

A MEMORIAL

HONORING NEW MEXICO'S BILINGUAL MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION ACT AND
REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO PROCLAIM 2023 AS "THE YEAR OF
BILINGUAL MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION".

WHEREAS, on the eve of the fiftieth anniversary of the
Bilingual Multicultural Education Act, the senate acknowledges
that bilingualism and multilingualism have always been a
reality in this land that is now called New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, reflecting on the linguistic and cultural gifts
of the elders both past and present, the senate celebrates the
diverse languages represented among the nineteen Pueblos and
the Dine, Apache, Comanche, Kiowa and Ute Nations; and

WHEREAS, the senate recognizes that the Spanish language
of New Mexico has been sustained for almost half a millennium
in this region and that the state continues to welcome and be

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1 further enriched by other languages; and

2 WHEREAS, the fortitude and resiliency of the bilingual
3 multicultural educators, students, parents, families and
4 communities continue to contribute to the multilingual and
5 multicultural legacy of the state; and

6 WHEREAS, the efforts of communities, educators and
7 political leaders who honor and continue the advocacy for
8 teaching the heritage languages of New Mexico remain both a
9 goal and a daily struggle; and

10 WHEREAS, New Mexico's bilingual education professors and
11 prominent educators continue to provide educational supports
12 and structures that ensure a legacy for future generations and
13 continue to advocate for bilingual multicultural education
14 infrastructures; and

15 WHEREAS, there are a number of professional and
16 educational organizations that the Bilingual Multicultural
17 Education Act helped propel, including the New Mexico
18 association for bilingual education, the center for the
19 education and study of diverse populations, dual language
20 education of New Mexico and the coalition for the majority; and

21 WHEREAS, the statutory bilingual multicultural education
22 advisory council advises the public education department about
23 goals for equitable access to high-quality education on behalf
24 of students and their families without compromising students'
25 linguistic and cultural heritage; and

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1 WHEREAS, New Mexico recognizes teachers of Native American
2 languages as professionals equal to teachers of English and
3 other languages; and

4 WHEREAS, the Spanish proficiency endorsement exam for
5 Spanish bilingual teachers is inclusive of and values the
6 assets of New Mexico's Spanish vernacular; and

7 WHEREAS, New Mexico adopted the state seal of
8 bilingualism-biliteracy in 2014; and

9 WHEREAS, the implementation of the federal standard
10 process for the identification of home languages, through the
11 home language survey, supports emergent bilingual students; and

12 WHEREAS, fifty years after the Bilingual Multicultural
13 Education Act, bilingual multicultural education programs
14 continue to be supported through the funding formula to public
15 schools, and bilingual multicultural educators continue to
16 infuse and advocate for a cultural and linguistic lens in the
17 teacher evaluation process;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
19 OF NEW MEXICO that the public education department and the
20 director of the language and culture division be requested to
21 provide a report to the legislature on how the requirements of
22 the Bilingual Multicultural Education Act are or are not being
23 fulfilled; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
25 department and school districts ensure that curricula,

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1 instruction, assessments and instructional materials be
2 developed and selected through the lens of the bilingual
3 multicultural needs of New Mexico's population; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that bilingual multicultural
5 education and Indigenous language experts be consulted in the
6 areas of curriculum, instruction, assessment, teacher
7 preparation, teacher evaluation, professional development and
8 licensure; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that funds be made available to
10 revise and update the current Spanish proficiency endorsement
11 exam; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that funding for professional
13 development, time and resources be allocated for educators to
14 develop a scope and sequence for bilingual multicultural
15 education programs appropriate for the languages being taught;
16 and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that institutions of higher
18 education be encouraged to create degree programs with
19 appropriate credentialed professors in bilingual multicultural
20 elementary education to increase the number of bilingual
21 teachers; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all school administrators,
23 including superintendents, receive ongoing in-depth training on
24 the Bilingual Multicultural Education Act and how to
25 effectively implement the act's rules at the local level; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that current and emergent bilingual
2 students with exceptionalities be recognized as vibrant
3 participants and contributors to bilingual multicultural
4 education programs; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that students identified in the
6 *Martinez/Yazzie v. State of New Mexico* ruling be represented
7 with greater equity and consistency as eligible for gifted
8 education programs and bilingual multicultural programs; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
10 department be requested to provide additional remuneration to
11 kindergarten through twelfth grade bilingual educators,
12 administrators and professors who use their bilingualism to
13 teach languages, prepare bilingual teachers, evaluate teachers
14 and classroom instruction, produce language materials, develop
15 tools for assessment and certify language teachers; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that resources, including research,
17 specific to bilingual multicultural education that are
18 inclusive of local and regional perspectives be used in teacher
19 preparation and educational leadership programs; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
21 department be requested to provide resources and expertise to
22 assist Native American language teachers, coordinators and
23 tribes in New Mexico to develop appropriate tools for assessing
24 Native language learning and evaluation programs; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that students who graduate with the

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1 state seal of bilingualism-biliteracy be granted college credit
2 in a language other than English throughout all institutions of
3 higher education, including Indigenous students, regardless of
4 whether those students' languages are written or oral; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
6 department be requested to review the need for scholarships for
7 students who attend New Mexico universities and colleges to
8 pursue bilingual multicultural education teaching degrees or
9 bilingual multicultural education terminal degrees; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
11 department be requested to adopt and use culturally relevant
12 materials and textbooks in multiple languages for all students
13 in bilingual multicultural education and the school libraries
14 that serve these programs; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
16 department be requested to provide resources to develop local
17 instructional materials appropriate for both oral-based
18 languages and those providing Native literacy; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that multiculturalism be encouraged
20 throughout kindergarten through twelfth grade education
21 programs; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the language and culture
23 division of the public education department be requested to
24 create an instructional guidance document to support the
25 effective implementation of bilingual multicultural education

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1 that moves beyond compliance and includes specific guidance
2 from the bilingual multicultural education advisory council for
3 oral-based languages as well as effective development in two
4 languages; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
6 department, in consultation with the bilingual multicultural
7 education advisory council, be requested to convene a task
8 force and generate a report to address the *New Mexico*
9 *Legislative Finance Committee Program Evaluation: Bilingual*
10 *and Multicultural Education Programs Report Findings and*
11 *Recommendations* and any community concerns by September 1,
12 2023; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be requested to
14 proclaim 2023 as "The Year of Bilingual Multicultural
15 Education"; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
17 department be requested to fully comply, address and fund the
18 linguistic rights of New Mexico's bilingual multicultural
19 students as provided for in Article 12, Section 8 of the
20 constitution of New Mexico, the court rulings of *Serna v.*
21 *Portales*, *Lau v. Nichols*, *Castañeda v. Pickard* and
22 *Martinez/Yazzie v. State of New Mexico*, the Bilingual
23 Multicultural Education Act and the federal Native American
24 Languages Act; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
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transmitted to the governor, the secretary of public education
and the secretary of higher education.