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SENATE BILL 12

44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SPECIAL SESSION, 1999

INTRODUCED BY

Timothy Z. Jennings

AN ACT

CREATING THE EDUCATION PROGRAM INITIATIVES AND ACCOUNTABILITY
TASK FORCE AND PROVIDING FOR ITS MEMBERSHIP AND DUTIES; MAKING
AN APPROPRIATION; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Section 1. EDUCATION REFORM TASK FORCE CREATED--
MEMBERSHIP-- APPOINTMENT-- DUTIES. --

A. The "education reform task force" is created
and shall consist of nineteen members appointed as follows:

(1) three members of the house of
representatives, two from the majority party and one from the
minority party, shall be appointed by the speaker of the house
of representatives;

(2) three members of the senate, two from the
majority party and one from the minority party, shall be

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1 appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate after
2 consultation and agreement of a majority of the members of the
3 committees' committee;

4 (3) three members of the executive department
5 appointed by the governor;

6 (4) the superintendent of public instruction
7 or his designee;

8 (5) the president of the state board of
9 education or his designee;

10 (6) the president of the New Mexico school
11 boards association or his designee;

12 (7) one elementary or secondary school
13 teacher, one school administrator and one parent of school-age
14 children, appointed by the speaker of the house of
15 representatives and the president pro tempore of the senate;
16 and

17 (8) one elementary or secondary school
18 teacher, one school administrator, private or public, and two
19 representatives of private industry appointed by the governor.

20 B. The task force members shall be appointed so as
21 to provide representation from the various geographic areas of
22 the state. Appointments shall be made no later than twenty
23 days after the effective date of this act. The governor, with
24 the concurrence of the speaker of the house of representatives
25 and the president pro tempore of the senate, shall appoint a

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1 chairman from among the members of the task force within
2 fourteen days of the appointment of the task force.

3 C. The governor, the speaker of the house of
4 representatives and the president pro tempore of the senate
5 may agree to appoint advisory members to the task force to
6 provide a broad range of educational views, interests and
7 expertise as necessary to accomplish its task.

8 D. The task force shall meet at the call of the
9 chair, but no less than once a month, as necessary to carry
10 out its duties. A majority of the members appointed
11 constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.
12 However, the final report of the task force findings and
13 recommendations must also have the support of a majority of
14 the legislative members.

15 E. The task force shall develop a plan for public
16 school accountability. To carry out this task, the task force
17 shall determine and identify the educational strengths and
18 deficiencies in the state's public schools and consider the
19 broadest range of educational issues, including special
20 program initiatives, such as vouchers, charter schools and
21 charter districts and other alternative educational programs,
22 basic skills education, teacher quality and qualifications,
23 early childhood education, open enrollment, educational
24 testing and education accountability. The task force shall
25 report its findings and recommendations, including proposed

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1 legislation, no later than December 1, 1999 for the
2 consideration of the second session of the forty-fourth
3 legislature.

4 F. The legislative council service shall staff the
5 task force and shall coordinate additional staff assistance
6 from other legislative and executive agencies as needed. The
7 legislative council service, at the request of the task force,
8 may contract with educational consultants or other persons
9 with expertise as needed to carry out its task.

10 G. Public members of the task force shall be
11 reimbursed for per diem and mileage expenses as provided for
12 public officers in the Per Diem and Mileage Act.

13 Section 2. APPROPRIATION. -- One hundred thousand dollars
14 (\$100,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
15 legislative council service for expenditure in fiscal years
16 1999 and 2000 to carry out the provisions of this act and to
17 reimburse the per diem and mileage expenses of the educational
18 reform task force. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance
19 remaining at the end of fiscal year 2000 shall revert to the
20 general fund. Payments from the appropriation shall be made
21 upon vouchers signed by the director of the legislative
22 council service or his authorized representative.

23 Section 3. EMERGENCY. -- It is necessary for the public
24 peace, health and safety that this act take effect
25 immediately.