SENATE BILL 60

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025

INTRODUCED BY

Michael Padilla

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC EDUCATION; CREATING THE HIGH SCHOOL WATER
MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION PROJECT AS A SIX-YEAR PILOT PROJECT
ADMINISTERED BY THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT; REQUIRING THE
PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO DEVELOP ACADEMIC CONTENT AND
PERFORMANCE STANDARDS AND MODEL CURRICULUM FOR A HIGH SCHOOL
ELECTIVE COURSE IN WATER MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION, SELECT AT
LEAST FIVE SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PILOT
PROJECT, AWARD FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS TO PARTICIPATING
SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND COLLECT DATA; ALLOWING FOR POTENTIAL
COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, POST-
SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND COUNTIES AND
MUNICIPALITIES; REQUIRING ANNUAL REPORTING AND A FINAL REPORT;
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

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1   **SECTION 1.** A new section of the Public School Code is

2   enacted to read:

3   "[NEW MATERIAL] PILOT PROJECT--HIGH SCHOOL WATER

4   MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION PROJECT CREATED--ADMINISTRATION--

5   COLLABORATION--REPORTING.--

6   A.   The "high school water management and

7   conservation project" is created as a six-year pilot project

8   administered by the department to study the feasibility of

9   offering practical environmental education to high school

10   students and the outcomes from offering such education.

11   B.   The department shall:

12   (1)   develop academic content and performance

13   standards and a model curriculum for a high school elective

14   course in water management and conservation that:

15   (a)   focuses on practical and

16   experiential learning;

17   (b)   is offered as a sequence of courses;

18   (c)   is multidisciplinary and combines

19   pedagogical approaches; and

20   (d)   meets the requirements of two or

21   more units required for graduation;

22   (2)   select at least five school districts to

23   participate in the project and make reasonable efforts to

24   select districts from different regions of the state and from

25   rural communities, small cities and large cities;

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1   (3)   award financial assistance grants to

2   participating school districts to be expended for personnel,

3   supplies and equipment and other expenses reasonably related to

4   the cost of providing the water management and conservation

5   coursework; and

6   (4)   collect data regarding:

7   (a)   student participation in the water

8   management and conservation courses offered;

9   (b)   students' performances in the

10   courses taken; and

11   (c)   students' post-graduation plans.

12   C.   The department may collaborate with the

13   department of environment, state post-secondary educational

14   institutions and counties and municipalities to identify

15   statewide and local issues involving water management and

16   conservation that may be incorporated in the development or

17   application of the high school water management and

18   conservation project, and the collaboration may include

19   potential post-graduation employment or pre-employment,

20   apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship or educational

21   opportunities for students.

22   D.   The department shall provide annual reports to

23   the legislative education study committee by December 31 of

24   each year of the project and a final report to that committee

25   by June 30, 2031."

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1   **SECTION 2.**   APPROPRIATION.--One million two hundred fifty

2   thousand dollars ($1,250,000) is appropriated from the general

3   fund to the public education department for expenditure in

4   fiscal years 2026 through 2031 to administer the high school

5   water management and conservation project. Any unexpended or

6   unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2031

7   shall revert to the general fund.

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