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**HOUSE BILL 781**

**45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001**

**INTRODUCED BY**

**Patsy G. Trujillo**

**AN ACT**

**RELATING TO EDUCATION; RAISING THE AGE OF COMPULSORY SCHOOL  
ATTENDANCE TO SEVENTEEN.**

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

**Section 1. Section 22-12-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1967,  
Chapter 16, Section 170, as amended) is amended to read:**

**"22-12-2. COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE--  
RESPONSIBILITY. --**

**A. Any qualified student and any person who  
because of his age is eligible to become a qualified student  
as defined by the Public School Finance Act until attaining  
the age of majority shall attend a public school, a private  
school, a home school or a state institution. A person shall  
be excused from this requirement if:**

- (1) the person is specifically exempted by**

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1 law from the provisions of this section;

2 (2) the person has graduated from a high  
3 school;

4 (3) the person is at least [~~sixteen~~]  
5 seventeen years of age and has been excused by the local  
6 school board or its authorized representative upon a finding  
7 that the person will be employed in a gainful trade or  
8 occupation or engaged in an alternative form of education  
9 sufficient for the person's educational needs and the parent,  
10 guardian or other person having custody and control consents;  
11 or

12 (4) with consent of the parent, guardian or  
13 person having custody and control of the person to be excused,  
14 the person is excused from the provisions of this section by  
15 the superintendent of schools of the school district in which  
16 the person is a resident and the person is under eight years  
17 of age.

18 B. A person subject to the provisions of the  
19 Compulsory School Attendance Law shall attend school for at  
20 least the length of time of the school year that is  
21 established in the school district in which the person is a  
22 resident.

23 C. Any parent, guardian or person having custody  
24 and control of a person subject to the provisions of the  
25 Compulsory School Attendance Law is responsible for the school

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attendance of that person. "

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