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SENATE BILL 12

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

INTRODUCED BY

Cynthia Nava

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; ENACTING THE TEACHER CADET ACT;
CREATING A PROGRAM THAT ENCOURAGES STUDENTS TO BECOME
TEACHERS; CREATING A FUND; PROVIDING FOR A COMPETITIVE AWARD
PROCESS; PROVIDING POWERS AND DUTIES; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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:

" NEW MATERIAL SHORT TITLE. -- This act may be cited as
the "Teacher Cadet Act". "

Section 2. A new section of the Public School Code is
enacted to read:

" NEW MATERIAL PURPOSE. -- The purpose of the Teacher
Cadet Act is to increase the number of high achieving students
who enter the teaching profession by recruiting students in

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1 grades six through twelve and providing them with information
2 about career opportunities in teaching and the availability of
3 financial assistance for teacher preparation. "

4 Section 3. A new section of the Public School Code is
5 enacted to read:

6 "[NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITIONS. --As used in the Teacher
7 Cadet Act:

8 A. "eligible school" means a public elementary
9 school that enrolls students in grade six or a public middle,
10 junior high or high school;

11 B. "fund" means the teacher cadet fund; and

12 C. "pre-collegiate activities" means activities
13 that support and encourage students to enter the teaching
14 profession, including extracurricular education clubs,
15 involvement in business and community organizations, secondary
16 and post-secondary courses, practice as a student assistant,
17 peer teaching, tutoring services, professional development
18 opportunities through summer camps or institutes and other
19 activities approved by the department of education. "

20 Section 4. A new section of the Public School Code is
21 enacted to read:

22 "[NEW MATERIAL] TEACHER CADET PROGRAM - CONCURRENT
23 ENROLLMENT COURSES--APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING. --

24 A. The department of education and school district
25 representatives shall work with the commission on higher

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1 education, teacher preparation programs and community colleges
2 to develop concurrent enrollment teaching courses in areas
3 such as teaching techniques, classroom management, child
4 development, learning styles, cultural diversity and other
5 teacher-related skills. The courses shall address current
6 issues in education as well as innovative teaching practices.

7 B. A school district may create a "teacher cadet
8 program" for students who are interested in pre-collegiate
9 activities.

10 C. An eligible school may apply to the department
11 of education for project funding for its teacher cadet
12 program. Applications shall be in a form approved by the
13 department and shall include the pre-collegiate activities to
14 be offered, the number of students to be served and the
15 eligible school's plan for evaluating the success of the
16 teacher cadet program by tracking students throughout their
17 public school and college careers and their employment status
18 after graduation. The department shall provide technical
19 assistance to eligible schools in developing funding
20 proposals.

21 D. The department of education shall establish
22 criteria for awarding money to eligible schools through the
23 competitive application process.

24 E. Eligible schools that receive an award from the
25 fund shall submit annual teacher cadet program reports to the

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1 department of education identifying the number and grade level
2 of students enrolled in pre-collegiate activities, including
3 the number of students concurrently enrolled in teaching
4 courses, and in which schools; the number of students
5 enrolling in an accredited education program upon graduation
6 from high school; and the number of students entering the
7 teaching profession. "

8 Section 5. A new section of the Public School Code is
9 enacted to read:

10 "[NEW MATERIAL] FUND CREATED. --

11 A. The "teacher cadet fund" is created in the
12 state treasury. The fund shall consist of money appropriated
13 to the fund, earnings from investment of the fund, federal
14 funds available for the purposes of the fund and gifts, grants
15 and donations. The money in the fund shall not revert to any
16 other fund at the end of a fiscal year. The department of
17 education shall administer the fund and money in the fund is
18 appropriated to the department to carry out the purposes of
19 the Teacher Cadet Act. Money in the fund shall be expended
20 upon warrant of the secretary of finance and administration
21 pursuant to vouchers signed by the state superintendent or his
22 authorized representative.

23 B. The department of education may provide awards
24 from the fund based on competitive applications from eligible
25 schools. Awards shall be provided directly to the eligible

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1 school and the money shall be used solely for expenditures
2 approved in the application. "

3 Section 6. APPROPRIATION. -- Five hundred thousand dollars
4 (\$500,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
5 teacher cadet fund for expenditure in fiscal year 2002 and
6 subsequent fiscal years to carry out the purposes of the
7 Teacher Cadet Act. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance
8 remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the
9 general fund.

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