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HOUSE BILL 409

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002

INTRODUCED BY

Luciano "Lucky" Varela

AN ACT

**RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; CHANGING THE EXTENDED LEARNING
FUND TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY FUND; MAKING AN
APPROPRIATION.**

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

**Section 1. Section 21-2A-11 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1995,
Chapter 224, Section 17) is amended to read:**

"21-2A-11. EXTENDED LEARNING PROGRAMS--PURPOSE--

COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION RESPONSIBILITIES--REPORTING.--

**A. The commission on higher education shall
coordinate the role and participation of public post-secondary
higher education institutions in the development and operation
of extended learning programs. Extended learning programs
shall be established to ensure equitable student access to
educational opportunities throughout the state. The**

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 commission shall work to ensure access, efficiency,
2 coordination and accountability in the development and
3 operation of the extended learning programs.

4 B. In coordinating the development and operation
5 of extended learning programs, the commission on higher
6 education shall make awards from the ~~[extended learning]~~
7 higher education technology fund for the purpose of
8 establishing ~~[pilot]~~ extended learning programs. ~~[Pilot]~~
9 Programs shall focus on the creation and operation of
10 community-based extended learning centers, the development of
11 regional resources and the expanded use of technology in
12 instruction.

13 C. Annually, prior to October 1, the commission on
14 higher education shall report to the legislature and the
15 governor on the status of extended learning programs and make
16 recommendations on the funding level for such projects for the
17 upcoming year. "

18 Section 2. Section 21-2A-12 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1995,
19 Chapter 224, Section 18) is amended to read:

20 "21-2A-12. ~~[EXTENDED LEARNING]~~ HIGHER EDUCATION
21 TECHNOLOGY FUND CREATED-- DISTRIBUTION OF FUND. --The "[~~extended~~
22 ~~learning]~~ higher education technology fund" is created in the
23 state treasury. Money in the fund is appropriated to the
24 commission on higher education for the purpose of making
25 awards to public schools and public post-secondary

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1 institutions for the purpose of developing and operating
2 extended learning programs and information technology projects
3 throughout the state. The commission shall establish by
4 regulation a procedure for application and award of money in
5 the fund. Disbursements of the fund shall be made by warrant
6 of the department of finance and administration pursuant to
7 vouchers signed by the executive director of the commission on
8 higher education. Any unexpended or unencumbered balances
9 remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year shall not
10 revert but shall remain to the credit of the fund. "

11 Section 3. APPROPRIATION. -- Five hundred thousand dollars
12 (\$500,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the higher
13 education technology fund for expenditure in fiscal year 2003
14 and subsequent fiscal years to support the development of a
15 New Mexico virtual college. Any unexpended or unencumbered
16 balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert
17 to the general fund.