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HOUSE BILL 156

**52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015**

INTRODUCED BY

Bill McCamley

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; ENACTING THE INNOVATIONS IN  
TEACHING ACT; CREATING THE INNOVATIONS IN TEACHING PROGRAM;  
PROVIDING POWERS AND DUTIES; ENCOURAGING TEACHERS TO IMPLEMENT  
INNOVATIVE PEDAGOGICAL APPROACHES AND STRATEGIES IN THEIR  
CLASSROOMS; GRANTING A WAIVER TO SUCH TEACHERS AND THEIR PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS FROM THE USE OF THE RESULTS OF STANDARDS-BASED  
ASSESSMENTS IN THEIR TEACHER EVALUATIONS AND A-B-C-D-F SCHOOL  
RATINGS FOR TWO YEARS; PROVIDING FOR AN APPLICATION, REPORTING  
AND EVALUATION PROCESS.

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  
"Innovations in Teaching Act"."

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

3           "[NEW MATERIAL] FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.--

4           A. The legislature finds that the state-mandated  
5 reliance on high-stakes testing for teacher evaluations and  
6 public school ratings is likely to stifle teachers' interest in  
7 investigating and implementing cutting-edge pedagogy in their  
8 classrooms and make school principals wary of allowing teachers  
9 to implement such pedagogy.

10           B. The purpose of the Innovations in Teaching Act  
11 is to:

12                   (1) support teachers' professional standing in  
13 determining how they will teach their assigned curricula;

14                   (2) give teachers the flexibility to  
15 experiment with one or more pedagogical approaches and  
16 strategies to engage and teach all their students; and

17                   (3) foster the use of innovative teaching that  
18 will engage students in learning and the love of learning,  
19 improve their academic achievement and promote their success in  
20 public school and life."

21           SECTION 3. A new section of the Public School Code is  
22 enacted to read:

23           "[NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Innovations  
24 in Teaching Act:

25           A. "innovative teaching" means the use of cutting-

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1 edge innovations in pedagogical approaches and strategies to  
2 teach a subject or grade;

3 B. "program" means the innovations in teaching  
4 program; and

5 C. "teacher" means a primary or secondary classroom  
6 teacher who has at least three years of teaching experience and  
7 who has been evaluated as highly effective or exemplary in the  
8 most recent teacher evaluation prior to participating in the  
9 program."

10 SECTION 4. A new section of the Public School Code is  
11 enacted to read:

12 "[NEW MATERIAL] INNOVATIONS IN TEACHING PROGRAM CREATED--  
13 DEPARTMENT DUTIES--APPLICATIONS--REQUIREMENTS.--

14 A. The "innovations in teaching program" is  
15 created. The department shall develop and implement the  
16 program, including an application and award process and  
17 evaluation and reporting requirements, for use in the 2016-2017  
18 and succeeding school years.

19 B. A teacher may apply to the department to  
20 participate in the program. Applications shall be submitted by  
21 June 30 for the upcoming school year.

22 C. The application shall include:

23 (1) the details of the proposed innovative  
24 teaching project and specific goals of the project,  
25 particularly as those goals relate to teaching English language

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1 learners, minority students, developmentally disabled or  
2 delayed students and students who have become defeated by or  
3 uninterested in school;

4 (2) a description of research findings on the  
5 proposed innovative teaching project or a description of its  
6 successful implementation in other schools in this or other  
7 countries;

8 (3) a description of how the innovative  
9 teaching project will be used to teach the pertinent curriculum  
10 and how it will prepare students to meet the expectations of  
11 the common core state standards or other state content and  
12 performance standards;

13 (4) examples of lesson plans that will be used  
14 in the innovative teaching project;

15 (5) a description of means and measures to  
16 determine the success or failure of the innovative teaching  
17 project;

18 (6) the length of time, not to exceed three  
19 school years, that the teacher proposes to use the described  
20 innovative teaching project; and

21 (7) other information that the applicant deems  
22 appropriate or the department requests.

23 D. The application shall be signed by the teacher  
24 and the teacher's school principal.

25 E. The department shall evaluate the application

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1 and may request additional information from the applicant. The  
2 department shall notify the teacher and the school principal  
3 prior to August 1 whether the application is approved."

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

6 "[NEW MATERIAL] WAIVER FROM STANDARDS-BASED ASSESSMENT  
7 RESULTS.--

8 A. The department shall waive the use of the  
9 results of the participating teacher's students' standards-  
10 based assessments on the teacher's teacher evaluation for up to  
11 two years at the request of the teacher and school principal.  
12 The department, the teacher and the school principal, working  
13 together, may develop other measures of teacher effectiveness  
14 or may assign different percentages to the remaining teacher  
15 evaluation measures.

16 B. The department shall waive the use of the  
17 results of the participating teacher's students' standards-  
18 based assessments on the public school's A-B-C-D-F school  
19 rating for up to two years at the request of the school  
20 principal.

21 C. The waivers provided in this section are not  
22 assessment waivers. Students of a teacher participating in the  
23 program are required to participate in standards-based  
24 assessments as provided in the Public School Code."

25 SECTION 6. A new section of the Public School Code is

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1 enacted to read:

2 "[NEW MATERIAL] EVALUATIONS AND REPORTS.--

3 A. The teacher shall keep records of each student  
4 participating in the innovative teaching project to chart  
5 student progress, including short-cycle or other assessments  
6 and a measurement of classroom participation and behavior.  
7 When making interim and final reports on the efficacy of the  
8 innovative teaching project, reporting on student records shall  
9 not include student names.

10 B. The department, the teacher and the school  
11 principal shall develop evaluation standards for the innovative  
12 teaching project to evaluate the success or failure of the  
13 innovative teaching project.

14 C. The department shall report its findings and  
15 recommendations for the program and for each innovative  
16 teaching project to the governor, the legislative education  
17 study committee and every local superintendent.

18 D. If it becomes clear, based on standards-based  
19 assessments or other data, that the innovative teaching project  
20 is not succeeding, the department may rescind its approval and  
21 the project may be redesigned or discontinued before the full  
22 term of the project is over."