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SENATE BILL 111

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2016

INTRODUCED BY

Mary Kay Papen

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC EDUCATION; CREATING THE SCIENCE EARLY
EDUCATION PROGRAM AS A PILOT PROJECT; PROVIDING POWERS AND
DUTIES; REQUIRING APPLICATIONS; REQUIRING MATCHING FUNDING;
CREATING A FUND; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION; DECLARING AN
EMERGENCY.

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 SCIENCE EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAM--PILOT
PROJECT--IMPLEMENTATION.--

A. The "science early education program" is created
as a five-year pilot project based on three-year student
cohorts that incorporates hands-on, age-appropriate physics
education into the sixth through eighth grade curricula. The

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1 purpose of the science early education program is to enhance
2 students' academic performance in science and mathematics.

3 B. The department shall administer the science
4 early education program and contract with an organization that
5 provides professional development and materials for teachers to
6 introduce physics education into the sixth through eighth grade
7 curricula.

8 C. School districts may apply on behalf of their
9 schools, on a form and in a manner as provided by the
10 department, to participate in the science early education
11 program and receive a grant from the science early education
12 fund. The department shall select for participation in the
13 program as many schools as qualify, but not more than ten. To
14 the extent possible, the department shall select schools that
15 are generally distinct from one another in urban or rural
16 character, location and concentration of poverty. A
17 participating school shall provide one-half of the funding for
18 the program.

19 D. Students participating in the science early
20 education program shall be evaluated at the beginning of the
21 program. The students' progress shall be measured through
22 standardized assessments.

23 E. The department shall establish reporting and
24 evaluation requirements, including student and program
25 assessments, for schools participating in the science early

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1 education program. At the end of each program year, the
2 department shall provide to the legislature and the governor an
3 interim or final report, as appropriate, on the efficacy of the
4 science early education program."

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

7 "[NEW MATERIAL] SCIENCE EARLY EDUCATION FUND--CREATED.--
8 The "science early education fund" is created in the state
9 treasury. The fund consists of appropriations, gifts, grants,
10 donations and income from investment of the fund. The
11 department shall administer the fund, and money in the fund is
12 appropriated to the department to carry out the purposes of the
13 science early education program. The department may seek
14 public and private grants and donations for the science early
15 education program. Grants and donations shall be deposited in
16 the fund. Money from a grant or donation shall be expended in
17 accordance with the terms of that grant or donation. Unless
18 otherwise specified by the terms of a grant or donation, the
19 balance in the fund at the end of the program shall revert to
20 the general fund. Expenditures from the fund shall be by
21 warrants of the secretary of finance and administration drawn
22 pursuant to vouchers signed by the secretary of public
23 education or the secretary's authorized representative."

24 SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION.--Two hundred fifty thousand
25 dollars (\$250,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the

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1 science early education fund for expenditure in fiscal years
2 2016 through 2021 to carry out the provisions of the science
3 early education program. Any unexpended or unencumbered
4 balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2021 shall revert
5 to the general fund.

6 SECTION 4. EMERGENCY.--It is necessary for the public
7 peace, health and safety that this act take effect immediately.

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