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SENATE BILL 89

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2020

INTRODUCED BY

William P. Soules

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; ENACTING THE BILINGUAL TEACHER
SCHOLARSHIP ACT; PROVIDING POWERS AND DUTIES; PROVIDING
APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS; CREATING A FUND; PROVIDING REPORTING
REQUIREMENTS; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

SECTION 1. A new section of Chapter 21 NMSA 1978 is
enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as the
"Bilingual Teacher Scholarship Act"."

SECTION 2. A new section of Chapter 21 NMSA 1978 is
enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Bilingual
Teacher Scholarship Act:

A. "bilingual multicultural education program"

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1 means a program using two languages, including English and the
2 home or heritage language of a student, as a medium of
3 instruction in the teaching and learning process;

4 B. "department" means the higher education
5 department;

6 C. "speakers of other languages" means students
7 whose first or heritage language is not English and who are
8 unable to read, write, speak or understand English at a level
9 comparable to grade level English proficient peers and native
10 English speakers; and

11 D. "teacher preparation program" means a public-
12 education-department-approved program at a New Mexico
13 institution of higher education that leads to a license
14 endorsement in teaching English to speakers of other languages
15 or bilingual multicultural education."

16 SECTION 3. A new section of Chapter 21 NMSA 1978 is
17 enacted to read:

18 "[NEW MATERIAL] DEPARTMENT POWERS--GRANTS--ELIGIBLE
19 APPLICANTS--PREFERENCES.--

20 A. The department shall adopt rules to implement
21 the provisions of the Bilingual Teacher Scholarship Act.

22 B. The department may award scholarships to
23 licensed teachers seeking endorsements or degrees in teaching
24 English to speakers of other languages or bilingual
25 multicultural education.

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1 C. In awarding scholarships, the department shall
2 give preference to teacher preparation programs that contain
3 coursework in:

- 4 (1) Spanish or a tribal language;
- 5 (2) teaching English to speakers of other
6 languages;
- 7 (3) use of a language other than English for
8 instructional purposes;
- 9 (4) the development of cultural proficiency in
10 working with New Mexico's public school population,
11 particularly Hispanic and Native American students; and
- 12 (5) instructional methods and techniques that
13 have proven effective in second language acquisition that meet
14 rigorous content standards and are effective in teacher
15 preparation program students successfully completing coursework
16 for teaching English to speakers of other languages or
17 bilingual multicultural education endorsement."

18 SECTION 4. A new section of Chapter 21 NMSA 1978 is
19 enacted to read:

20 "[NEW MATERIAL] SCHOLARSHIPS--PRIORITIES.--

21 A. The department may award scholarships to New
22 Mexico residents who are licensed teachers studying to teach
23 English to speakers of other languages or bilingual
24 multicultural education who agree to teach English to speakers
25 of other languages or bilingual multicultural education in a

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1 New Mexico public school.

2 B. Scholarships shall be sufficient to pay the cost
3 of tuition, fees and instructional materials. Students shall
4 enter into a contract with the department. As part of the
5 contract, a scholarship recipient shall agree to work for a
6 period of three full academic years in a New Mexico public
7 school.

8 C. Priority to receive the scholarship shall be
9 given to licensed teachers who:

10 (1) received the New Mexico seal of
11 bilingualism-biliteracy on their high school diploma of
12 excellence; and

13 (2) have demonstrated proficiency in one of
14 New Mexico's indigenous languages or the Spanish language and
15 who want to become bilingual multicultural education teachers."

16 SECTION 5. A new section of Chapter 21 NMSA 1978 is
17 enacted to read:

18 "[NEW MATERIAL] BILINGUAL TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP FUND--
19 CREATED--PURPOSE.--The "bilingual teacher scholarship fund" is
20 created as a nonreverting fund in the state treasury. The fund
21 consists of appropriations, gifts, grants and donations. Money
22 in the fund is subject to appropriation by the legislature to
23 award scholarships pursuant to the Bilingual Teacher
24 Scholarship Act. Disbursements from the fund shall be on
25 warrants issued by the secretary of finance and administration

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1 pursuant to vouchers signed by the secretary of higher
2 education or the secretary's designated representative."

3 SECTION 6. A new section of Chapter 21 NMSA 1978 is
4 enacted to read:

5 "[NEW MATERIAL] REPORTS.--The department, in consultation
6 with the public education department, shall provide the
7 legislature with an annual report that includes:

8 A. the number of teachers who receive scholarship
9 funds pursuant to the Bilingual Teacher Scholarship Act;

10 B. the institution of higher education that the
11 individuals attended;

12 C. the license endorsement that the teachers are
13 pursuing; and

14 D. upon completion of license endorsement
15 requirements:

16 (1) the name of the school district or charter
17 school where the scholarship recipient is employed; and

18 (2) the type of teaching English to speakers
19 of other languages or bilingual multicultural education program
20 in which the individual teaches."

21 SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION.--One million dollars
22 (\$1,000,000) is appropriated from the public education reform
23 fund to the bilingual teacher scholarship fund for expenditure
24 in fiscal year 2021 to carry out the provisions of the
25 Bilingual Teacher Scholarship Act. Any unexpended or

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1 unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year
2 shall not revert to the public education reform fund.