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HOUSE MEMORIAL 43

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025

INTRODUCED BY

Yanira Gurrola and E. Diane Torres-Velásquez

A MEMORIAL

ACKNOWLEDGING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HISPANIC EDUCATION ACT AND THE BILINGUAL MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION ACT AND REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE TO STUDY HISPANIC AND BILINGUAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS.

WHEREAS, Hispanic students constitute the majority of the student population in New Mexico and face achievement gaps in academic performance, graduation rates and college and career readiness; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico has a rich bilingual and multicultural heritage, with a significant number of Hispanic students who are English learners requiring specialized instructional support and who may benefit from multicultural education and culturally responsive pedagogy; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico was the first state in the nation to

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1 enact laws to serve Hispanic, bilingual and multicultural
2 students with the Hispanic Education Act and the Bilingual
3 Multicultural Education Act, which promote educational equity,
4 bilingual proficiency and culturally responsive education; and

5 WHEREAS, the Hispanic Education Act aims to improve
6 educational outcomes and expand educational opportunities for
7 Hispanic students by fostering collaboration among public
8 schools, the public education department, the higher education
9 department and community organizations to address achievement
10 gaps, increase graduation rates, foster parental involvement
11 and increase post-secondary enrollment, retention and
12 completion; and

13 WHEREAS, the Bilingual Multicultural Education Act aims to
14 ensure equal educational opportunities by incorporating
15 students' cultural and linguistic backgrounds into learning, by
16 promoting bilingualism, cognitive development and appreciation
17 of diverse languages and cultures and by providing discretion
18 to local school boards and charter school governing bodies over
19 program funding if they meet the outlined program needs; and

20 WHEREAS, the public education department oversees and
21 reports on the implementation of bilingual and multicultural
22 education programs and oversees the bilingual multicultural
23 education advisory council that consists of educators, school
24 leaders and higher education faculty; and

25 WHEREAS, the legislature has allocated funding for the

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1 Hispanic Education Act and the Bilingual Multicultural
2 Education Act, but direct impact of the funding on students and
3 their communities remains unclear; and

4 WHEREAS, the *Martinez/Yazzie* lawsuit highlighted Hispanic
5 English-learning students' struggle with academic performance
6 in reading and math, with those in bilingual programs
7 performing only slightly better than their peers outside these
8 programs; and

9 WHEREAS, research emphasizes that well-implemented
10 bilingual multicultural education strengthens executive
11 function, expands career and higher education opportunities and
12 improves academic achievement; and

13 WHEREAS, evaluating current programming for Hispanic and
14 bilingual students and the funding structure and resource
15 allocation for these programs would help inform legislative
16 recommendations to strengthen educational outcomes for Hispanic
17 and bilingual students by identifying successful initiatives
18 and by maximizing the impact of the limited resources
19 appropriated;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
21 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that this
22 legislative body hereby acknowledge the significance of the
23 Hispanic Education Act and the Bilingual Multicultural
24 Education Act and request the legislative education study
25 committee to study the implementation of those acts and the

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1 current state of Hispanic education and bilingual programs,
2 including evaluating and identifying successful initiatives
3 related to students' academic performance and the funding
4 structures for Hispanic and bilingual education; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative education
6 study committee be requested to study Hispanic and bilingual
7 education in collaboration with:

- 8 A. a representative group of youth;
- 9 B. representatives of the student groups named in
10 the *Martinez/Yazzie* lawsuit;
- 11 C. educator preparation programs;
- 12 D. educational leaders and educators with expertise
13 in bilingual education;
- 14 E. higher education institutions;
- 15 F. members of the community; and
- 16 G. the public education department; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative education
18 study committee be requested to publish a report of its
19 research and recommendations by December 31, 2025; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
21 transmitted to the director of the legislative education study
22 committee and the secretary of public education.