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SENATE BILL 740

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1999**

INTRODUCED BY

Manny M Aragon

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; ESTABLISHING AND DIRECTING AN  
ASSESSMENT OF ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN THE  
ALBUQUERQUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS; CREATING A BLUE-RIBBON ASSESSMENT  
PANEL; ENACTING SECTIONS OF THE NMSA 1978.

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

Section 1. ASSESSMENT OF ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION. --

A. The legislature finds that

(1) the needs of "at-risk" high school  
students that require or benefit from alternative education  
are varied;

(2) the options and curriculum of alternative  
schools and facilities have varying degrees of success in  
preparing at-risk students for further education and future  
employment; and

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1 (3) vigorous standards and attentive  
2 evaluation of the successes and appropriateness of alternative  
3 education opportunities will permit the development and  
4 betterment of alternative education in the state.

5 B. An assessment of alternative education programs  
6 shall be conducted in the Albuquerque public schools by  
7 community education leaders and professionals. The purpose of  
8 the assessment is to ascertain and evaluate the contributions  
9 and successes of alternative schools in that school district  
10 in relation to at-risk students as well as to suggest other  
11 and additional opportunities that should be explored as part  
12 of the alternative education program in that school district  
13 and in the state.

14 C. Standards and changes shall include  
15 recommendations on:

16 (1) the continuation, limitation or expansion  
17 of current schools and programs;

18 (2) new programs and additional schools; and

19 (3) qualitative and quantitative standards by  
20 which alternative schools and programs may be evaluated to  
21 ensure that their contributions and participation in the  
22 education of at-risk students actually serve the best  
23 interests and future benefits of both the students and the  
24 state.

25 D. The assessment of alternative education

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1 programs shall be conducted by a blue-ribbon panel titled the  
2 "alternative education assessment panel" that shall be  
3 comprised of the chairman of the board of regents of the  
4 university of New Mexico, the president of the Albuquerque  
5 technical-vocational institute, the superintendent of  
6 Albuquerque public schools and three community members, one  
7 appointed by the governor, one appointed by the president pro  
8 tempore of the senate and one appointed by the speaker of the  
9 house of representatives, who shall serve without compensation  
10 or reimbursement.

11 E. The assessment of alternative education  
12 programs shall be completed by December 1, 2000, and the  
13 panel's report with recommended changes and standards  
14 thereafter shall be provided to the Albuquerque public schools  
15 board, the state board of education and the legislative  
16 education study committee.

17 F. The state department of public education and  
18 the Albuquerque public schools shall provide the panel with  
19 clerical assistance and sufficient materials to conduct and  
20 complete its mission.

21 G. The alternative education assessment program  
22 shall become effective on July 1, 1999 and continue through  
23 April 1, 2001.