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SENATE BILL 6

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

INTRODUCED BY

Pauline B. Eisenstadt

AN ACT

CREATING THE EDUCATION REFORM TASK FORCE AND PROVIDING FOR ITS
MEMBERSHIP AND DUTIES; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION; DECLARING AN
EMERGENCY.

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

Section 1. EDUCATION REFORM TASK FORCE CREATED--

MEMBERSHIP-- APPOINTMENT-- DUTIES. --

A. The "education reform task force" is created
and shall function from the date of its appointment until the
fifteenth day of December prior to the second session of the
forty-fourth legislature.

B. The education reform task force shall consist
of nineteen members appointed as follows:

(1) three members of the house of
representatives, two from the majority party and one from the

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1 minority party, shall be appointed by the speaker of the house
2 of representatives;

3 (2) three members of the senate, two from the
4 majority party and one from the minority party, shall be
5 appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate after
6 consultation and agreement of a majority of the members of the
7 committees' committee;

8 (3) the speaker of the house of
9 representatives and the president pro tempore of the senate
10 shall serve as ex-officio members;

11 (4) the governor or his designee;

12 (5) the superintendent of public instruction
13 or his designee;

14 (6) the president of the state board of
15 education or his designee;

16 (7) the president of the New Mexico school
17 boards association or his designee;

18 (8) one active or retired elementary or
19 secondary school teacher, one active or retired school
20 administrator and one parent of school-age children, appointed
21 by the speaker of the house of representatives and the
22 president pro tempore of the senate with the concurrence of
23 the governor; and

24 (9) one active or retired elementary or
25 secondary school teacher, one active or retired school

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1 administrator and two representatives of private industry
2 appointed by the governor with the concurrence of the speaker
3 of the house of representatives and the president pro tempore
4 of the senate.

5 C. The task force members shall be appointed so as
6 to provide representation from the various geographic areas of
7 the state. Appointments shall be made no later than thirty
8 days after the effective date of this act. The governor, with
9 the concurrence of the speaker of the house of representatives
10 and the president pro tempore of the senate, shall appoint a
11 chairman from among the members of the task force within
12 fourteen days of the appointment of the task force. The task
13 force shall elect such other officers as it deems necessary to
14 carry out its duties.

15 D. The governor, the speaker of the house of
16 representatives and the president pro tempore of the senate
17 may agree to appoint any number of advisory members to the
18 task force to provide a broad range of educational views,
19 interests and expertise as necessary to accomplish its task.

20 E. The task force shall meet at the call of the
21 chair, but no less than once a month, as necessary to carry
22 out its duties. A majority of the members appointed
23 constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

24 F. The task force shall develop an action plan for
25 public school reform. To carry out this task, the task force

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1 shall determine and identify the educational deficiencies and
2 problems in the state's public schools and consider the
3 broadest range of educational issues, including social
4 promotion, vocational training, homework policy, basic skills
5 education, teacher qualifications, early childhood education,
6 open enrollment, vouchers, accountability and educational
7 testing. The task force shall report its findings and
8 recommendations, including proposed legislation, no later than
9 December 1, 1999 for the consideration of the second session
10 of the forty-fourth legislature.

11 G. The legislative council service shall staff the
12 task force and shall coordinate additional staff assistance
13 from other legislative and executive agencies as needed. The
14 legislative council service, at the request of the task force,
15 may contract with educational consultants or other persons
16 with expertise as needed to carry out its task.

17 H. Public members of the task force shall be
18 reimbursed for per diem and mileage expenses as provided for
19 public officers in the Per Diem and Mileage Act.

20 Section 2. APPROPRIATION. -- Fifty thousand dollars
21 (\$50,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
22 legislative council service for expenditure in fiscal years
23 1999 and 2000 to carry out the provisions of this act and to
24 reimburse the per diem and mileage expenses of the educational
25 reform task force. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance

1 remaining at the end of fiscal year 2000 shall revert to the
2 general fund. Payments from the appropriation shall be made
3 upon vouchers signed by the director of the legislative
4 council service or his authorized representative.

5 Section 3. EMERGENCY.--It is necessary for the public
6 peace, health and safety that this act take effect
7 immediately.

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