

HOUSE BILL 152

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

INTRODUCED BY

Christine Trujillo

AN ACT

RELATING TO ADULT EDUCATION; PROVIDING DUTIES TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT; CREATING A FUND; ESTABLISHING REQUIREMENTS FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS PROVIDING ADULT EDUCATION SERVICES TO RECEIVE FUNDING; REQUIRING A STRATEGIC ADULT EDUCATION PLAN; MAKING APPROPRIATIONS.

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

SECTION 1. Section 9-25-8 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2005, Chapter 289, Section 8) is amended to read:

"9-25-8. SECRETARY--DUTIES AND GENERAL POWERS.--

A. The secretary is responsible to the governor for the operation of the department. It is the secretary's duty to manage all operations of the department and to administer and enforce the laws with which the secretary or the department is charged.

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B. To perform the duties of the secretary, the secretary has every power expressly enumerated in the law, whether granted to the secretary, the department or any division of the department, except when any division is explicitly exempted from the secretary's power by statute. In accordance with these provisions, the secretary shall:

(1) except as otherwise provided in the Higher Education Department Act or Chapter 21 NMSA 1978, exercise general supervisory and appointing power over all department employees, subject to applicable personnel laws and rules;

(2) delegate power to subordinates as the secretary deems necessary and appropriate, clearly delineating such delegated power and the limitations to that power;

(3) organize the department into organizational units as necessary to enable it to function most efficiently, subject to any provisions of law requiring or establishing specific organizational units;

(4) within the limitations of available appropriations and applicable laws, employ and fix the compensation of those persons necessary to discharge the duties of the secretary;

(5) take administrative action by issuing orders and instructions, not inconsistent with law, to ensure implementation of and compliance with the provisions of law for which administration or execution the secretary is responsible

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1 and to enforce those orders and instructions by appropriate
2 administrative action in the courts;

3 (6) conduct research and studies that will
4 improve the operation of the department and the provision of
5 services to the [citizens] residents of the state;

6 (7) provide courses of instruction and
7 practical training for employees of the department and other
8 persons involved in the administration of programs with the
9 objectives of improving the operations and efficiency of
10 administration;

11 (8) prepare an annual budget for the
12 department; [and]

13 (9) provide cooperation, at the request of
14 administratively attached agencies and adjunct agencies, in
15 order to:

16 (a) minimize or eliminate duplication of
17 services and jurisdictional conflicts;

18 (b) coordinate activities and resolve
19 problems of mutual concern; and

20 (c) resolve by agreement the manner and
21 extent to which the department shall provide budgeting, [record
22 keeping] recordkeeping and related clerical assistance to
23 administratively attached agencies; and

24 (10) conduct oversight of adult education
25 services statewide.

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1 C. The secretary may apply for and receive, with
2 the governor's approval, in the name of the department, any
3 public or private funds, including United States government
4 funds, available to the department to carry out its programs,
5 duties or services.

6 D. The secretary may make and adopt such reasonable
7 and procedural rules as may be necessary to carry out the
8 duties of the department and its divisions. No rule
9 promulgated by the director of any division in carrying out the
10 functions and duties of the division shall be effective until
11 approved by the secretary. Unless otherwise provided by
12 statute, no rule affecting any person or agency outside the
13 department shall be adopted, amended or repealed without a
14 public hearing on the proposed action before the secretary or a
15 hearing officer designated by the secretary. No rule
16 promulgated by the department shall infringe upon the authority
17 vested by Article 12 of the constitution of New Mexico in the
18 boards of regents of the educational institutions specified in
19 that article. The final public hearing on adoption, amendment
20 or repeal of a rule shall be held in Santa Fe unless otherwise
21 permitted by statute. Notice of the subject matter of the
22 rule, the action proposed to be taken, the time and place of
23 the hearing, the manner in which interested persons may present
24 their views and the method by which copies of the proposed rule
25 or proposed amendment or repeal of an existing rule may be

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1 obtained shall be published once at least thirty days prior to
2 the hearing date in a newspaper of general circulation and
3 mailed at least thirty days prior to the hearing date to all
4 persons who have made a written request for advance notice of
5 hearing. All rules shall be filed in accordance with the State
6 Rules Act."

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

9 "[NEW MATERIAL] ADULT EDUCATION SERVICES FUND--CREATED--
10 PURPOSE--REQUIREMENTS TO RECEIVE FUNDING.--

11 A. The "adult education services fund" is created
12 as a nonreverting fund in the state treasury. The fund
13 consists of appropriations, gifts, grants and donations. The
14 higher education department shall administer the fund, and
15 money in the fund is appropriated to the higher education
16 department to provide funding to charter schools providing
17 adult education services that comply with the requirements of
18 Subsection C of this section. Money in the fund is subject to
19 appropriation by the legislature. Disbursements from the fund
20 shall be made by warrant of the secretary of finance and
21 administration pursuant to vouchers signed by the secretary of
22 higher education or the secretary's authorized representative.

23 B. The higher education department shall provide
24 annual funding to supplement a state or locally chartered
25 charter school's operational or instructional costs for adult

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1 students. The department shall use the state or locally
2 chartered charter school's financial plan provided in
3 Subsection C of this section to determine the financial need of
4 each state or locally chartered charter school prior to the end
5 of fiscal year 2020. The department shall disburse the
6 funding for each state or locally chartered charter school at
7 the beginning of fiscal year 2021. Each state or locally
8 chartered charter school may receive up to six thousand dollars
9 (\$6,000) in funding per student, per school year; provided that
10 the total amount of funding distributed shall not exceed the
11 available money in the adult education services fund.

12 C. In order to receive funding from the adult
13 education services fund, charter schools shall comply with the
14 following requirements:

15 (1) provide a copy of the charter school's
16 original mission and vision plan for the education of adults;

17 (2) demonstrate that the charter school has
18 served adult students for no less than five years and was
19 serving adult students at the time this 2020 act went into
20 effect;

21 (3) demonstrate that at least fifteen percent
22 of the education services provided by the charter school are to
23 the adult population;

24 (4) provide a financial plan that details the
25 charter school's financial need for fiscal year 2021 before the

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1 end of fiscal year 2020; and

2 (5) demonstrate through the charter school's
3 chartering authority and state auditors:

4 (a) fiscal responsibility and liquidity;
5 (b) governing body compliance; and
6 (c) compliance with the requirements as
7 defined in the chartering authority's charter framework and
8 contract."

9 **SECTION 3. TEMPORARY PROVISION--STRATEGIC ADULT EDUCATION**
10 **PLAN.--**

11 A. During the 2020-2021 school year, the higher
12 education department and the public education department shall
13 work to develop a strategic adult education plan with school
14 districts and charter schools that provide education services
15 to adult students who have not received a high school diploma
16 or its equivalent and who have reached their twenty-second
17 birthday on the first day of the school year.

18 B. The strategic adult education plan shall
19 include:

20 (1) a structure for a funding system for adult
21 education programs for adult students who have not received a
22 high school diploma or its equivalent and who have reached
23 their twenty-second birthday on the first day of the school
24 year;

25 (2) supports for adult education programs for

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adult students who have not received a high school diploma or its equivalent and who have reached their twenty-second birthday on the first day of the school year;

(3) a pilot project that includes best practices for adult student remediation, academic acceleration and social-emotional supports; and

(4) rules regarding the safe and productive interaction between adult non-traditional students and traditional students.

SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION.--Six million dollars

(\$6,000,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the adult education services fund for expenditure in fiscal year 2021 and subsequent fiscal years to provide operational and instructional funds to charter schools providing education services for persons who have not received a high school diploma or its equivalent and who have reached their twenty-second birthday on the first day of the school year and meet other criteria provided in the Public School Finance Act. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund.

SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION.--Two hundred thousand dollars
(\$200,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the higher education department for expenditure in fiscal year 2021 to hire personnel to oversee adult education services provided statewide and to provide funding to assist with operational

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1 expenses. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at
2 the end of fiscal year 2021 shall revert to the general fund.

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