

*Veto*

*V. J. Healy*

HOUSE BILL 273

42ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1995

INTRODUCED BY

*Richard P. Sanchez*  
*Barbara A. Perea Casey*  
*Fred Luna* *Tim Stewart*  
*Chris Maut* *Sheryl M. Williams*  
*W.C. Dubois* *Jeanette Wallen*

*Earlene Roberts*

AN ACT

*Public Schools; Language*

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; RECOGNIZING AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE AS A LANGUAGE; AUTHORIZING THE TEACHING OF AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

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

Section 1. Section 22-1-1.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1986, Chapter 33, Section 1) is amended to read:

"22-1-1.1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.--

A. The legislature finds that, although New Mexico has been in the forefront of educational reforms in many areas, additional improvements are necessary to enhance and upgrade the delivery of quality education in New Mexico.

B. The legislature further finds that enhancement of the educational system in New Mexico requires a renewed emphasis on the primary grades, recognizing especially the

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1 importance of the first grade to a child's future educational  
2 career.

3 C. The legislature further finds that teachers and  
4 administrators play a key role in any reform efforts and  
5 acknowledges their importance in the educational process.

6 D. The legislature further finds that the  
7 smorgasbord curriculum offered in many schools fails to  
8 provide students with the basic educational background  
9 necessary to provide them with indispensable life skills.

10 E. The legislature further finds that discipline in  
11 the schools is essential to provide an atmosphere conducive to  
12 effective learning.

13 F. The legislature further finds and recognizes  
14 American Sign Language as a language that should be given the  
15 same consideration for instruction, to hearing or hearing-  
16 impaired students, as other languages taught in New Mexico  
17 public schools.

18 [F.] G. It is the purpose of this reform  
19 legislation, among other things, to stress the importance of  
20 substantive academic subjects, provide for a greater emphasis  
21 on the primary grades, upgrade curriculum and graduation  
22 requirements, systematically evaluate instructional  
23 improvement and student progress, increase parental  
24 involvement in the public schools and recognize that teachers  
25 should be treated like other professionals."

underscored material = n  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 Section 2. Section 22-2-8.3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1986,  
2 Chapter 33, Section 4, as amended) is amended to read:

3 "22-2-8.3. SUBJECT AREAS--MINIMUM INSTRUCTIONAL AREAS  
4 REQUIRED--ACCREDITATION.--

5 A. The state board shall require instruction in  
6 specific subject areas as provided in Subsections B through F  
7 of this section. Any public school or school district failing  
8 to meet these minimum requirements shall not be accredited by  
9 the state board.

10 B. All first and second grade classes shall provide  
11 daily instruction in language arts skills, including phonics,  
12 and mathematics.

13 C. All third grade classes shall provide daily  
14 instruction in language arts skills and mathematics.

15 D. All fourth, fifth and sixth grade classes shall  
16 provide instruction in language arts skills, with an emphasis  
17 on writing and editing; mathematics; science; and social  
18 studies, including geography. The following subject areas  
19 shall be offered in the remaining instructional time: art;  
20 music; physical education; health; American Sign Language and  
21 computer literacy, including a general familiarization with  
22 computers and support in the areas of mathematics and writing  
23 through word processing.

24 E. All seventh grade classes shall provide  
25 instruction in English, with an emphasis on grammar and

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1 writing; communication skills or science; New Mexico history  
2 and geography; mathematics; and physical fitness. Remaining  
3 instructional time may be used for electives listed in  
4 Subsection G of this section.

5 F. All eighth grade classes shall provide  
6 instruction in English, mathematics, United States history and  
7 science. Remaining instructional time may be used for  
8 electives listed in Subsection G of this section.

9 G. The electives authorized in Subsections E and F  
10 of this section are art, industrial arts, chorus, band, home  
11 economics, typing, creative writing, speech, drama, Spanish,  
12 American Sign Language, computer literacy and other electives  
13 approved by the state board."

14 Section 3. Section 22-2-8.4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1986,  
15 Chapter 33, Section 5, as amended by Laws 1993, Chapter 68,  
16 Section 3 and by Laws 1993, Chapter 92, Section 1 and by Laws  
17 1993, Chapter 226, Section 7 and also by Laws 1993, Chapter  
18 230, Section 1) is amended to read:

19 "22-2-8.4. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS.--

20 A. At the end of the eighth grade or during the  
21 ninth grade, each student shall prepare an individual program  
22 of study for grades nine through twelve. The program of study  
23 shall be signed by a student's parent or guardian.

24 B. Beginning with students entering the ninth grade  
25 in the 1986-87 school year, successful completion of a minimum

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[bracketed material] = delete

1 of twenty-three units shall be required for graduation. These  
2 units shall be as follows:

- 3 (1) four units in English, with major  
4 emphasis on grammar and literature;
- 5 (2) three units in mathematics;
- 6 (3) two units in science, one of which shall  
7 have a laboratory component;
- 8 (4) three units in social science, which  
9 shall include United States history and geography, world  
10 history and geography and government and economics;
- 11 (5) one unit in physical fitness;
- 12 (6) one unit in communication skills, with  
13 major emphasis on writing and speaking, ~~[which]~~ that may  
14 include a language other than English, including American Sign  
15 Language; and

16 (7) nine elective units. Only the following  
17 elective units shall be counted toward meeting the  
18 requirements for graduation: fine arts, i.e., music, band,  
19 chorus and art; practical arts; physical education; languages  
20 other than English, including American Sign Language; speech;  
21 drama; vocational education; mathematics; science; English;  
22 R.O.T.C.; social science; computer science; health education;  
23 and other electives approved by the state board.

24 C. [~~Effective with the 1987-88 school year~~] Final  
25 examinations shall be administered to all students in all

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1 classes offered for credit.

2 D. Beginning with students entering the ninth grade  
3 in the 1986-87 school year, no student shall receive a high  
4 school diploma who has not passed a state competency  
5 examination in the subject areas of reading, English, math,  
6 science and social science. If a student exits from the  
7 school system at the end of grade twelve without having passed  
8 a state competency examination, he shall receive an  
9 appropriate state certificate indicating the number of credits  
10 earned and the grade completed. If within five years after a  
11 student exits from the school system he takes and passes the  
12 state competency examination, he may receive a high school  
13 diploma.

14 E. The state board may establish a policy to  
15 provide for administrative interpretations to clarify  
16 curricular and testing provisions of the Public School Code."

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[bracketed material] = delete

# State of New Mexico House of Representatives

FORTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION, 1995

February 17, 1995

Mr. Speaker:

Your EDUCATION COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred  
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has had it under consideration and reports same with  
recommendation that it DO PASS, amended as follows:

1. On page 3, line 12, after the period insert:

"Languages other than English, including American sign  
language, may be offered in the remaining instructional time."

2. On page 3, line 14, after the period insert:

"Languages other than English, including American sign  
language, may be offered in the remaining instructional time."

3. On page 3, line 20, strike "American Sign Language".

4. On page 3, line 23, after the period insert:

"Languages other than English, including American sign  
language, may be offered in the remaining instructional time."

and thence referred to the APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCE  
COMMITTEE.


Respectfully submitted,

  
Samuel F. Vigil, Chairman

FORTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION, 1995

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Adopted  (Chief Clerk)      Not Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ (Chief Clerk)  
Date 2/21/95

The roll call vote was 10 For 0 Against  
Yes: 10  
Excused: McSherry, Weeks  
Absent: None

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