

H 54 INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT ACT

March 5, 2002

HOUSE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 115

I have this day VETOED and am returning HOUSE BILL 54, as amended, enacted by the Forty-Fifth Legislature, Second Session, 2002.

This bill expands and replaces the current Individual Development Account (IDA) program, which allows low-income families to establish state-administered and funded accounts for certain designated uses. This legislation would likely create an unfunded entitlement. In addition, it is my understanding that the Bush administration is exploring new, more effective ways to administer federally funded welfare programs, including IDAs, so substantive change to this program is premature.

H 153 REDISTRICTING OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS

March 5, 2002

HOUSE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 112

I have this day VETOED and am returning HOUSE BILL 153, as amended, enacted by the Forty-Fifth Legislature, Second Session, 2002.

This bill would require the State Board of Education to redistrict any district that has a student population in excess of 35,000. This deconsolidation mandate would effectively break up the Albuquerque public school district into three new districts. It is clear that the Albuquerque public school system must undergo a major reformation to meet the educational needs of all Albuquerque public school students. I have been encouraged to hear that the Albuquerque Public School system is entertaining the idea of working with private education providers on a pilot basis to see if they can produce results. In any case, this piece of legislation provides little if any hope for systemic solutions. This bill will create three new administrative entities with three new layers of bureaucracy, which for practical purposes translates into higher costs. The break up could potentially increase property tax mill levies and generate bonding capacity issues that may cripple capital funding well into the future. In short this bill creates a new administrative structure but does not address the glaring deficiencies that will remain despite this aggressive organizational change.