

6211

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

October 9, 2009

Introduced by Sen. ESPADA -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to directing the commissioner of education to establish a Hispanic youth symposium initiative; and making an appropriation therefor

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Legislative intent. The legislature hereby finds that the
2 Pew Hispanic Center in their recent 2005 study by Roberto Juro, entitled
3 "Hispanics: A People in Motion", noted that Hispanic youth "lag behind
4 white students at all key milestones of their educational journey. In
5 high school, Hispanic youths complete a less rigorous curriculum and, on
6 average, score lower on national assessments and college entrance
7 exams... they remain much less likely than their white peers to finish
8 college." In 2004, only 12.5% of the Hispanic labor force had a college
9 degree, as compared to 30.9% for non-Hispanics.
10 Hispanics are New York's fastest growing minority population. Despite
11 the enormous potential of this population, Hispanics' prominent presence
12 in the workforce is not matched by strong educational attainment. In
13 2003-2004, Hispanics represented two-thirds of workforce growth. However,
14 according to the United States Census Bureau, Hispanics are receiving
15 four year degrees at roughly one-third of the rate of their non-Hispanic
16 counterparts. The growing Hispanic population means more workers,
17 but not more educated workers. In fact, the inverse appears to be true.
18 The legislature finds that funding is necessary to pay the start up
19 expenses of three new Hispanic youth symposiums in the state and for
20 three year-round program coordinators to support Hispanic students and
21 proposed student activities that will enable these students to establish
22 a college going culture.
23 The establishment of Hispanic youth symposiums will provide several
24 benefits, including: delivering high level college and career access

EXPLANATION--Matter in *ITALICS* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [] is old law to be omitted.

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1 instructions to students, creating the confidence necessary to apply for
2 colleges, scholarships and loans, creating a professional career focus,
3 and empowering students to take positive actions on the issues facing
4 their community.

5 S 2. Section 305 of the education law is amended by adding a new
6 subdivision 42 to read as follows:

7 42. A. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL ESTABLISH, WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT, THE
8 HISPANIC YOUTH SYMPOSIUM INITIATIVE. SUCH INITIATIVE SHALL PROVIDE
9 YEAR-ROUND ACTIVITIES FOR HISPANIC STUDENTS. THE HISPANIC YOUTH SYMPOSI-
10 UM INITIATIVE SHALL INCLUDE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THREE REGIONAL HISPANIC
11 YOUTH SYMPOSIUMS IN THE STATE, AND EACH REGIONAL SYMPOSIUM SHALL BE
12 DIRECTED BY A REGIONAL COORDINATOR.

13 B. THE PURPOSE OF THE HISPANIC YOUTH SYMPOSIUMS SHALL BE TO:

14 (I) ESTABLISH SPEAKERS' BUREAUS FOR THE PURPOSE OF MEETING WITH
15 HISPANIC STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS, IN COORDINATION WITH REGIONAL
16 SCHOOL ACTIVITIES;

17 (II) MANAGE HISPANIC STUDENT CONNECTIONS TO CORPORATIONS, COMMUNITY
18 ORGANIZATIONS, STATE AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION;

19 (III) PROVIDE HISPANIC STUDENT OUTREACH FOR PARTICIPANTS AND FACILITA-
20 TORS OF FUTURE HISPANIC YOUTH SYMPOSIUMS IN THIS STATE;

21 (IV) DELIVER HIGH LEVEL COLLEGE AND CAREER ACCESS INSTRUCTION;

22 (V) CREATE THE CONFIDENCE IN HISPANIC STUDENTS NECESSARY TO APPLY FOR
23 COLLEGE, SCHOLARSHIPS AND LOANS;

24 (VI) CREATE A PROFESSIONAL CAREER FOCUS; AND

25 (VII) EMPOWER HISPANIC STUDENTS TO TAKE POSITIVE ACTIONS ON ISSUES
26 FACING THEIR COMMUNITY.

27 S 3. The sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000), or so much
28 thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to the education
29 department out of any moneys in the state treasury in the general fund
30 to the credit of the state purposes account, not otherwise appropriated,
31 and made immediately available, for the purposes of implementing the
32 provisions of subdivision 42 of section 305 of the education law, as
33 added by section two of this act. Such moneys shall be payable on the
34 audit and warrant of the comptroller on vouchers certified or approved
35 by the commissioner of education in the manner prescribed by law.

36 S 4. This act shall take effect immediately.