

HOUSE BILL 537

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025

INTRODUCED BY

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AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; REQUIRING POST-SECONDARY
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO DESIGNATE HIGHER EDUCATION LIAISONS
FOR STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS; PRESCRIBING DUTIES;
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] HIGHER EDUCATION LIAISON.--

A. Each post-secondary educational institution
enumerated in Article 12, Section 11 of the constitution of New
Mexico, except the New Mexico military institute, New Mexico
school for the blind and visually impaired and New Mexico
school for the deaf, shall designate one full-time-equivalent
staff member to act as a higher education liaison for current
and incoming students experiencing homelessness. The staff
member shall be designated from one of the following offices or

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1 departments within the institution:

- 2 (1) financial aid;
- 3 (2) student services or affairs;
- 4 (3) student housing; or
- 5 (4) any other appropriate office capable of
- 6 performing the liaison's duties.

7 B. The higher education liaison shall:

8 (1) identify and contact students who
9 indicated being homeless or at risk of homelessness on a free
10 application for federal student aid;

11 (2) inform incoming and enrolled students
12 experiencing homelessness about resources and assistance
13 available on campus and within the community in meeting basic
14 needs;

15 (3) assist students experiencing homelessness
16 with completing applications for other available financial aid;

17 (4) assist students experiencing homelessness
18 with managing coursework; and

19 (5) publish training materials for faculty and
20 staff of the institution to recognize signs of homelessness in
21 students and refer the students to the higher education liaison
22 and publish information about on-campus and community resources
23 for students experiencing homelessness.

24 C. The higher education department shall:

- 25 (1) work with the New Mexico basic needs

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1 consortium to provide training to ensure best practices by the
2 higher education liaisons, faculty and staff regarding students
3 experiencing homelessness; and

4 (2) administer an annual survey regarding
5 students experiencing homelessness and publish a report of the
6 survey on the higher education department's website.

7 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.--Five hundred thousand dollars
8 (\$500,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the higher
9 education department for expenditure in fiscal year 2026 to
10 provide training to higher education liaisons, faculty and
11 staff regarding students experiencing homelessness. Any
12 unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of
13 fiscal year 2026 shall revert to the general fund.