

American Legion Auxiliary
New Mexico Girls State
2015 Bill/Resolution



Committee: _____

Principal Author: Rory Cooley

Bill No.: _____

Delegation: _____

Title of Bill: A Bill to Establish a Voucher System in New Mexico

1 Be It Enacted By The American Legion Auxiliary New Mexico Girls State 2015

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3 Section 1. Relating to the funding of a private-school education for a student that the
4 government of New Mexico shall issue a school voucher to the parents of school
5 children who are low-income, disabled, attending a public school that has received a "D"
6 or "F" from the Public Education Department at least 2 our of the 3 years, or is the child of
7 an active-duty service member, that they may use towards the payment of all or part of
8 their child's tuition. Whereas voucher systems promote competition between public and
9 private schools to incentive increase accountability; whereas vouchers will result in
10 increased consumer sovereignty permitting more families to choose the education they
11 would like their child to receive; whereas school vouchers have been shown in other state
12 to increase quality and effectiveness in schools that must compete.

8 Section 2. Definitions.

- 9 A. School Vouchers shall be defined as a certificate of funding issued by the
10 government to the parents of a school child to be used for the payment of
11 tuition at a school of their choosing.
12 B. Low-income shall be defined as those earning less that twice the federal poverty line.
13 C. Disabled shall be defined as having a medically determined physical or mental
14 impairment that results in marked and severe functional limitations that has lasted or is
15 expected to last at least one year.

14 Section 3. Penalty. The New Mexican state government shall provide the parents of children
15 meeting the above criteria with a school voucher to use as they see fit.

16 Section 4. Provisions. This program would be overseen by the New Mexico state Department of
17 Education

- 17 A. There shall be no cap on the number of vouchers given out total or to a single family for
18 multiple children.
19 B. Private schools which accept children on vouchers are not required to administer a state
20 test to the student unless asked to by the student's parents, but they must report students'
21 progress to the parent and state.
22 C. The maximum dollar value of the voucher shall be equal to what a public school would
23 receive for each participating student.

22 Section 5. Repeal. All laws, acts, provisions, or parts of laws contained in the Constitution of the
23 State of New Mexico in conflict with any provision of this act are hereby repealed.

24 Section 6. Effective Date. This act shall become effective on and after January 1, 2016.