

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION,
2000**

INTRODUCED BY
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FOR THE EDUCATION INITIATIVES AND ACCOUNTABILITY TASK FORCE

A JOINT MEMORIAL
REQUESTING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TO DESIGN
A STATEWIDE READING INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE READING
PROFICIENCY.

WHEREAS, the education initiatives and accountability
task force was established in 1999 by the New Mexico
legislative council; and

WHEREAS, the task force has determined that reading
proficiently at grade level is its number one priority to be
addressed by the 2000 legislature; and

WHEREAS, one of the many goals of the education
initiatives and accountability task force is for all students
in New Mexico to meet or exceed standards for reading
proficiently at grades three through graduation; and

WHEREAS, the education initiatives and accountability
task force desires that by New Mexico's one hundredth

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1 birthday of statehood, in 2012, all students graduate from
2 high school multilingual and prepared for higher education
3 and productive careers; and

4 WHEREAS, reading, or the inability to do so, is
5 inextricably tied to student dropout rate and many of the
6 social problems that go along with students dropping out of
7 school; and

8 WHEREAS, studies show that children who cannot recognize
9 their names in writing before they start kindergarten are
10 already behind in learning to read; and

11 WHEREAS, studies show that children who cannot read are
12 disadvantaged in competing for jobs in today's high
13 technology work force, cannot make intelligent consumer
14 choices or cannot participate fully as citizens;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
16 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that, to improve reading proficiency in
17 the state of New Mexico, the state department of public
18 education design a statewide reading initiative in the year
19 2000; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the superintendent of public
21 instruction involve reading specialists, teachers, parents
22 and others in the design process of the reading initiative;
23 and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the design of the reading
24 initiative focus on providing consistent assessment and
25 evaluation of student reading levels, providing appropriate
staff development at the public schools and school districts
to assist teachers in the instruction of the reading

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1 initiative program and providing extra time in the student's
2 day for the implementation of reading programs that reflect
3 quality, research-based programs shown to improve reading
4 proficiency; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the design of the reading
6 initiative also focus on rewarding teachers and staff in
7 schools and districts that are improving student success; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the superintendent of public
9 instruction report to the legislative education study
10 committee and the appropriate legislative interim committee
11 about the designed reading initiative by August 2000; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the chairman of the legislative education
14 study committee, the chairman of the appropriate legislative
15 interim committee, the president of the state board of
16 education and the superintendent of public instruction.