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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 10

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002

INTRODUCED BY

Mimi Stewart

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION TO STUDY THE
FEASIBILITY OF REQUIRING ELEMENTARY EDUCATION MAJORS TO MINOR
IN THE TEACHING OF READING.

WHEREAS, improving reading proficiency in New Mexico has
been a legislative priority since 2000; and

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

WHEREAS, reading is inextricably tied to educational
success or failure, and the inability to read affects the
student dropout rate and many of the social problems that go
along with students dropping out of school and not achieving
their potential; and

WHEREAS, studies show that children, youth and adults who
cannot read are disadvantaged in competing for jobs in today's
high technology work force, cannot make intelligent consumer
choices and cannot participate fully as citizens; and

WHEREAS, while teacher preparation programs offer three

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material]~~ = delete

1 to nine credit hours in reading for teacher certification,
2 some of these hours may not emphasize basic reading skills or
3 incorporate the most recent research or necessary knowledge to
4 teach reading; and

5 WHEREAS, research indicates that some elementary level
6 teacher preparation programs in other states that include the
7 requirement of a minor in the teaching of reading are
8 demonstrating improved student reading achievement;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
10 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the commission on higher education,
11 in collaboration with the state department of public
12 education, be requested to study the feasibility of
13 instituting a minor in the teaching of reading as a
14 requirement for granting teacher certification in elementary
15 education; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission on higher
17 education report to the legislative education study committee
18 by August 2002; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
20 transmitted to the commission on higher education and the
21 director of the legislative education study committee for
22 appropriate distribution.

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