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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 63
46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003
INTRODUCED BY
J. Paul Taylor

A JOINT MEMORIAL
REQUESTING THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO STUDY THE ADULT
BASIC EDUCATION FUND FORMULA.

WHEREAS, the state board of education states that
"Literacy is a national priority and must become the priority
for all New Mexico citizens, parents and educators, and
literacy impacts every person's future success and his or her
ability to function academically, in the world of work and as
an effective citizen"; and

WHEREAS, the board further states that "this policy will
guide the work of the state superintendent, the state
department of public education, local school boards, all
educators and communities in the improvement of literacy skills
for all students"; and

WHEREAS, low levels of English literacy in the United

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1 States and in New Mexico are linked to poverty, and the
2 national research council indicates that children of caregivers
3 or parents with low literacy skills do not have the same
4 educational opportunities as children of highly literate
5 parents; and

6 WHEREAS, twenty-seven percent of New Mexico families with
7 children less than five years of age live at or below the
8 poverty level, and New Mexico has the highest rate of children
9 living in poverty in the fifty states; and

10 WHEREAS, the state department of public education is part
11 of the array of services for literacy from preschool through
12 adulthood, involving prevention of literacy problems as well as
13 intervention for those New Mexicans requiring literacy
14 services; and

15 WHEREAS, the state department of public education is under
16 a joint powers agreement with the human services department to
17 administer one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for a statewide
18 adult basic education program for temporary assistance for
19 needy families program recipients with learning problems; and

20 WHEREAS, the state department of public education, in
21 consultation with representatives of adult basic education
22 sites, established by regulation in 1995 an equitable formula
23 for the distribution of resources in the adult basic education
24 fund; and

25 WHEREAS, in establishing the formula, the department

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1 considered the types of programs conducted, the cost of service
2 delivery and the socio-economic profiles of the adults
3 receiving services, and the department submitted the proposed
4 formula to the commission on higher education for approval
5 prior to adoption; and

6 WHEREAS, the state department of public education
7 distributes resources through this formula; and

8 WHEREAS, the department and adult basic education
9 providers wish to reexamine and update this formula in light of
10 the over two hundred thirty thousand individuals in New Mexico
11 who are eligible for adult literacy, secondary degrees and
12 English as a second language services; and

13 WHEREAS, the department and adult basic education
14 providers question the efficacy, equitability and efficiency of
15 the present formula; and

16 WHEREAS, four million eight hundred thousand dollars
17 (\$4,800,000) was appropriated in fiscal year 2003 from general
18 funds and served thirty thousand two hundred nineteen full- and
19 part-time students; and

20 WHEREAS, the state department of public education is the
21 regulatory agency for the federal adult basic education
22 resources and the state general funds distributed through the
23 funding formula;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
25 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state board of education be

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1 requested to create a task force to examine the present formula
2 and determine its adequacy and, if necessary, establish a new
3 formula; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force should include:

- 5 A. adult basic education providers; and
- 6 B. representatives from student organizations,
7 including general equivalency diploma candidates; English
8 language learners and literacy learners; the commission on
9 higher education; business entities; the departments of finance
10 and administration, labor, economic development and human
11 services; literacy experts; regional workforce investment
12 boards; the New Mexico association of community colleges; New
13 Mexico works providers; the New Mexico office of Indian
14 affairs; and the state department of public education; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the findings and conclusions
16 be presented to the legislative education study committee by
17 November 2003; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the members of the state board of education.