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1 equivalency degree and more than one hundred sixty thousand
2 adults in New Mexico do not speak English with the ability to
3 be understood, according to United States census data; and

4 WHEREAS, adult basic education programs currently serve
5 more than thirty thousand students in New Mexico; and

6 WHEREAS, the national adult literacy survey found that a
7 person's potential earnings decrease as literacy levels
8 decrease; and

9 WHEREAS, New Mexico does not have a statewide workplace
10 literacy program;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
12 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state department of public
13 education and the labor department be requested to collaborate
14 on developing a workplace literacy program and a plan to deploy
15 the program during fiscal year 2005; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state department of public
17 education and the labor department be requested to involve
18 adult basic education providers, the human services department,
19 business and industry representatives, the commission on higher
20 education, the economic development department and literacy
21 experts in developing the program; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state department of public
23 education and the labor department be requested to present the
24 plan to the legislative education study committee no later than
25 December 1, 2003; and

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